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Olympic torch is ready to light up the region



From left, director and chief executive Andrew Lovett, with Audrey Armet, of Wolverhampton, and Graham Wheatcroft, at Black Country Living Museum, Dudley

Towns and cities across the Black Country are celebrating as the full Olympic Torch route has been unveiled, bringing the iconic flame to the region as part of a national relay ahead of the London 2012 games.

Attractions including canals at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley will be visited – and the tour will work its way through the Midlands before the relay culminates with a special evening of celebrations during an overnight stay in Birmingham city centre.

The torch will be in Staffordshire on May 30 and then again on June 30 before heading through the Black Country region. It will first pass through Bloxwich, Leamore, Birstall and Walsall.

It will then be taken through Wil-

lenhall before heading to Wolverhampton and then on to Dudley via the Black Country Living Museum prior to heading to Oldbury, West Bromwich and Smethwick.

At the Black Country Living Museum, the torch bearer will take the flame on a trip along the canal in the Stour boat, as well as ride on the historic tram line through the popular attraction.

Museum chief executive Andrew Lovett said: "I feel so proud to welcome the Olympic Torch to the Black Country Living Museum, on behalf of the region."

Dudley Council leader Les Jones added: "I'm absolutely delighted. The Olympics is a major event that you don't normally get to see, so for people to be able to get so close to a part of it

is marvellous."

Wyre Forest District Council chairman Councillor Steve Clee said he was "delighted".

"It will put Wyre Forest on the map – we are only the second council in Worcestershire to be visited so it is a big deal for us," he said

The relay will pass through Willenhall before heading to Wolverhampton where a number of celebration events will be staged.

Councillor Elias Mattu, Wolverhampton City Council's Cabinet Member for Leisure and Communities, said: "Over the years Wolverhampton has produced many sportsmen and women who have represented the city on the national and international stage, and it is fitting tribute to them."

Mother, 74, is injured and suspect charged with murder of her son

MAN, 47, FOUND KILLED AT HOME

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A murder investigation has been started following the death of a 47-year-old man at his home in Dudley.

Kevin Jones was pronounced dead at the scene in Woodside and his 74-year-old mother Jean Jones taken to hospital with leg injuries following the incident. A man has appeared in court charged with murder.

It was not clear how Mr Jones was killed. Police patrols have been stepped up in the streets surrounding the house to provide reassurance to local families. William Spence, aged 38, of Fullwood Crescent, Dudley, is accused of murdering Mr Jones and assaulting his mother at the Buxton Road house at around 10.10pm on Saturday. He appeared at Dudley Magistrates' Court where he was remanded in custody to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Cordoned

Neighbours spoke of their shock over the tragedy as the house, just yards from The New Testament Church of God, which was cordoned off for forensic investigations.

One resident, who did not wish to be named, said: "It is a real shock that something like this has happened around here. Usually it is such a quiet place."

"At first I thought it might have been something like kids messing about with fireworks, it has been the bonfire weekend. But obviously it has turned out to be something far more serious."

A family friend, who did not wish to be named, said: "Jean is not very well and staying with friends. Everyone is distraught."

Neighbours say Mrs Jones returned home briefly but is believed to be staying with friends.

Ban Chinese lanterns call as car is set on fire

A car was destroyed in a blaze which started when a Chinese lantern landed on its bonnet. The Vauxhall Corsa was parked outside the home of owners Jackie Tetley and David Hickenbottom in Swanfield Road, Wordsley, when the stray lantern landed on it, causing a fire which spread to the inside of the car.

The couple described how they were alerted to the blaze by a neighbour and when they looked outside saw flames 2ft tall. It was the first of two fires, suspected to have been caused by Chinese lanterns, attended by firefighters in the Dudley borough last night.

The other, on the Gibbons Road Industrial Estate in Brierley Hill, damaged a tree. The owners of the car are now calling for the items to be banned.

A lantern landed on their car, causing a fire which spread through a vent, melting the dashboard. The couple are now calling for the lanterns, which consist of a metal frame with a candle inside, to be banned.

Frightening

"It's really frightening to think what could happen – there was a three-quarter full tank of petrol there; what if we hadn't noticed the fire and it spread there?" said mother-of-one Miss Tetley.

"They are really dangerous, and something should be done. My car is probably written off so I will be out of pocket just because someone wanted to see a pretty flame go up in the sky."

Mr Hickenbottom, aged 47, said they had been watching TV when a neighbour knocked on their door to alert them on Sunday.

"I looked out the window and just saw flames, around two foot tall," he added.

"I couldn't believe it. I got the hose and fought it the best I could while Jackie called the police and fire brigade. It's shocking what damage they can cause."



Jackie Tetley, from Wordsley, and her damaged Vauxhall Corsa

Firefighters based in Brierley Hill were called to the blaze at 8.30pm – and less than four hours later, a crew from the same station were called to the other fire suspected to have been caused by a stray lanterns. Watch Commander Dave Foley said the second fire had taken hold of a conifer tree at 11.55pm on the Gibbons Road Industrial Estate. "The estate is locked at night, with CCTV monitoring and no source of ignition that we could find near the tree," he said.

"We also found what looked like a metal frame from one of these kind of lanterns nearby. We can't prove that's what caused the fire but that's what we suspect. In my personal opinion, they are very dangerous things indeed."

You are being watched by 700 cameras

More than 700 CCTV cameras are keeping watch on the streets of Dudley, new figures show. Around 127 of them are "pro-actively" monitored, according to a new report.

Produced by Dudley Council, the report says in total there are now around 750 council owned CCTV cameras, excluding schools, which are situated in locations that include council buildings, offices, halls, car parks, blocks of flats and depots. The council's CCTV control room is in Sedgley Police Station and is operational 24 hours a day.

Two members of staff are on duty at all times.

Borough bosses said the cameras help spot crime and help with vehicle flow on some of the borough's busiest roads.

Among those which are constantly monitored are car parks including the one on Stafford Street in Dudley town centre, and cameras at the town's bus station.

Leaders say the the cameras that are not pro-actively monitored are looked at when needed.

Councillor Tim Wright, said: "The council uses a network of cameras to tackle crime and maintain safety in our town centres and public buildings, as well as assisting with traffic management and other issues across the borough."

"The authority monitors and records 127 cameras in our town centres, highways and other areas, 24-hours-a-day 365-days-a-year. The remainder of our cameras are positioned in venues including leisure centres, car parks, libraries and other council buildings which are monitored when needed."

"The council is currently reviewing the monitoring and management of CCTV in the Dudley borough."

A company called Legion group monitors the CCTV images.

Victim stabbed in graveyard attack

A 28-year-old man was stabbed several times in an attack at a Halesowen graveyard. The victim was found in a flat just feet away from the cemetery in Stourbridge Road and is in a serious condition in hospital.

Police cordoned off Halesowen Cemetery and the adjacent grounds of St John the Baptist Church on Saturday while forensics teams examined the scene.

The victim was found at around 8.30am on Saturday.

Police are investigating reports that he was attacked in the graveyard of the church and made his way to the flat. West Midlands Police spokesman Lee Page said officers were still trying to piece together what had happened, and when.

He said: "The man had suffered multiple stab wounds, which were life-threatening injuries. He was talking to us when we arrived at the scene but we are still trying to determine the sequence of events."

Call 0345 1135000.

Extra help for veterans

Dudley Council has launched a new charter to offer extra help to military veterans to re-adjust to civilian life.

Former servicemen and women will benefit from services, including housing priority and leisure centre discounts. It follows a commitment by Dudley Council to work with other organisations to ensure veterans are getting the support they need. It includes ensuring people leaving forces accommodation are a council housing priority and also helping with council tax and housing benefit claims.

The charter is supported by the local Royal British Legion and Job Centre Plus, Dudley Citizens' Advice Bureaux, Dudley Council for Voluntary Service and Dudley Chamber of Commerce.

Rethink – page 3

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Hotline to blow the whistle

Five reports have been made to a new hotline and website set up by Dudley Council to catch workers suspected of stealing or misusing resources, or outside groups that wholly obtain contracts or grants.

The authority set up the new scheme last month so people and workers can blow the whistle on staff or groups they believe are wrongly using the authority's cash and equipment.

Now bosses have revealed the new scheme has already attracted a response.

Councillor David Blood, said: "It's one month since the launch of Dudley Council's fraud hotline and website and to date we have received five reports.

The council remains committed to making sure council money is used for the purposes for which it is intended, meeting the needs of local people."

He added: "All reported incidents will be investigated thoroughly."

Under the new scheme, residents and council staff are able to report any suspicion of fraud which will then be investigated by a specialist team.

This includes fraudulent use of money, such as people getting cash they are not entitled to, including payments for contracts, supplies or grants.

It can also include the theft or misuse of council resources, such as stores, equipment, vehicles or buildings belonging to the authority.

To report suspected fraud visit www.dudley.gov.uk/fraud or call the dedicated hotline on 01384 814242.

People will be asked to leave a recorded message. Details are held in strict confidence.

Woodwork show

An exhibition of work by members of the Woodworkers' Guild, including carving and scroll saw work, has opened in Halesowen Library, in the Cornbow Centre, and will remain there until the end of the month. The Guild meets every other Wednesday at the Quinbone Centre in Ridgacre Road, Quinton, between 7pm and 9.30pm. Call 0121 427 6375.

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Work to shut pools

Two pools at a popular leisure centre in Stourbridge are to be shut for more than a month for repairs costing £474,000.

The leisure pool, which has a wave machine and is used by families, and the 25-metre pool at Crystal Leisure Centre will close on November 21.

Both will remain shut until January 3, while work to replace the air handling units is carried out.

The units replace the originals that have been in place since the centre opened in 1990 and will reduce running costs. Routine maintenance and repairs will also be undertaken.

Councillor Les Jones, leader of Dudley Council, said: "We apologise for any inconvenience caused while we carry out these essential works and hope disruption will be kept to a minimum.

Academy bid voted in

Governors have voted through plans to transform a Halesowen high school into an academy – despite mass opposition from teachers and parents.

The Earls High School will become an academy by the start of next year, with school chiefs claiming the decision will give more control over budgets.

Around 100 people turned out to

protest against the plan last month, claiming there had not been a thorough consultation, claiming the move would make the school less accountable.

Vice principal Richard Jacobs said he believed the decision was "very positive" – and reassured worried staff and parents that the school would continue to run exactly as it is currently.

Link road work may start within weeks

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A new link road between the two major tourist attractions in Dudley is set to be one of the first projects built as part of a £10 million transformation.

The plans to link Dudley Zoo and the Black Country Living Museum have been in the pipeline for years but were held back by nearby roadworks at the Burnt Tree junction and the new Tesco. Since £4.5m European funding was agreed, plans are being drawn up to start work on the link road in Dudley within weeks.

Dudley regeneration chief councillor Angus Adams, said they were keen to move the diggers in "as soon as possible".

Detailed plans are being drawn up for the road, which will run from near the Trading Post premises in Castle Hill to the back of the museum in nearby Tipton Road.

The road will also provide access to the Dudley Canal Trust at the back of the museum.

The scheme includes a large car park which would be shared by the attractions. Council chiefs are now planning a programme of road closures for the area while the work is carried out.

Demolished

Councillor Adams said: "We want to get going as soon as we can."

"Everything is in place now – the old Royal Brierley Crystal building next to the museum has been demolished, so it is all set up for work to begin."

The scheme, which forms part of a wider project across 200 hectares of land around Castle Hill, eventually hopes to pave the way for dozens of new businesses and turn the district into a tourism and leisure hub.

The foundation of this hub will be created with the building of a shared arrival point and car park for visitors to the three attractions, leading off Tipton Road, and the £6m Sandwell archive building.

Plots for other leisure and tourism attractions will be created along the road.

Builders ready to move in and revamp JB's club

Contractors will move in to begin work to revamp former Dudley rock club JB's this week as its new owners aim to reopen by Christmas.

Former fixtures such as the bars and toilets will be ripped out and replaced, and the club in Dudley will be refitted with the latest sound system. Wolverhampton businessman Raj Kumar bought the club at an auction in September for £225,000, nine months after it closed down. "I will be spending next week talking to people in the local area to see what role they want to play," he said.

Two foals, aged six months and eight months, and a 14-month-old

Horses killed by arson attack on stables



The scene of the fire which killed three young horses in Pensnett, Dudley



These two young horses escaped the stables blaze but still suffered injuries

Three horses were killed and two seriously injured in an arson attack on a stables in the Black Country.

Police and fire officers were investigating after detection equipment showed petrol was used to set the shelter ablaze.

The wreckage of the stables, in a field off Huntsmill Drive, Pen-

nett, Dudley, was discovered Sunday morning by its devastated owners, who had driven there to feed the animals.

Owner June Thornton, aged 63, who lives nearby in Smithy Lane with her husband Paul, 66, said: "I'm heartbroken."

Witnesses should call police on 0345 113 5000.

Plea by farmer on sites bid

A farmer made an emotional plea to council bosses to rethink proposals for a travellers site near his home at a public meeting in Stourport.

Manor Farm is one of four spots being considered in the town for new pitches by Wyre Forest District Council. But the farmer who works the land fears it will put his farm in jeopardy.

Tim Barnes, whose family have worked on the land since 1957, says the farm is home to three businesses and is keeping six people in work.

He fears the future of the 17-acre farm could be in jeopardy if the council pushes ahead with the proposals for a travellers site.

At a public meeting at Stourport Civic Hall recently, where around 180 people heard the debate, he said it had been "a stressful time" for his family and urged council chiefs to scrap the plans.

"Please can you think about people's families and livelihoods. Manor Farm has been my past and Stourport's past. With all of your help it can be my future too," he said.

His passionate speech led to a standing ovation and round of applause from many in the audience.

Stourport councillor Dixon Shepherd said: "It should never have been one of the sites up for consideration."

The consultation process runs until November 18.

Man claimed to be his son

A driver who pretended to be his son when stopped by police – despite there being a 30 year age gap – has been banned from driving.

Gudwin Chabata, aged 52, has never passed his test but drove his son's car to collect his wife on September 18. Dudley Magistrates' Court heard. He was involved in a crash with another car in Highbridge Road, Netherton but gave his 22-year-old son's name to officers as he was the registered owner.

Police worked out he was lying, said Mr Mark Cooper, prosecuting, and arrested him. Mr Robert Skinner, defending, said Chabata was "shocked" after the crash.

Chabata, of Lodge Crescent, Dudley, admitted obstructing a police constable, driving without a licence, and using a vehicle without insurance. He was banned for six months, and ordered to pay a £270 in fines, £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Firm donates cash to charity

A computer firm has donated more than £300 to a Midland children's charity from selling old mobile phones.

OGL Computer has given the money to Mentor Link, Stourport which trains and provides mentors to support children throughout Worcestershire. Mentors are trained to listen to, support and encourage the young people. OGL Computer has supported Mentor Link since the summer and has donated the cheque for £326.



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Award for social care boss

A Black Country social care boss has received a top award for her work to implement Government reforms at organisations in the region.

Debbie Le Quesne won the outstanding contribution to social care honour at the Great British Care Awards held at Birmingham's ICC. The 50-year-old is chief executive officer of the Halesowen-based West Midlands Care Association which gives advice and support to public and private care operations.

"It's a huge honour to receive this much-respected award, but in all conscience I cannot possibly own it as my own," said Miss Le Quesne. "It represents

countless hours of hard work by my staff, association directors and not least the local authorities we partner in modernising the delivery of care."

Miss Le Quesne, from Wolverhampton, who joined the association in 2003, has been involved in care work since she was aged 14 working as a volunteer with the Phab charity which works with disabled. She later continued her interests in care as a Rotaract and Rotary Club volunteer, which included helping to set up a respite centre – Merton House in Ross on Wyre – before taking a marketing job with the association.

Metal thieves targeted

Undercover police officers are being despatched to scrap metal dealers across the West Midlands to conduct a series of test purchases looking for stolen metal.

The covert purchases are being made as part of Operation Stealth, a scheme launched by police to cut down on metal thieves plaguing the region.

A day of action to promote the operation saw 20 scrap yards across Dudley visited and Stealth posters warning of police action were put up. One man was fined £500 and issued a notice of prosecution by Customs and Revenue officers, who joined the team and carried out 33 dip-tests on scrap vans, looking for illegal red diesel fuel, while Environment Agency workers were on-hand checking for waste carriers' licences.

Sgt Jay Gregory, who led the action, said the day had raised awareness. "Scrap dealers are now in no doubt of the action they will face if they are caught accepting stolen goods," he said.

Inst. Richard Jones said since Operation Stealth was launched in July, the number of metal-related offences had fallen by around half, from around 140 a month to around 70.

Charity's in the pink

A regular at a Black Country pub has raised at least £1,000 for a local hospice by dying his hair pink.

Alan Savage, aged 57, a regular at the Red Cow pub in Grosvenor Road, Lower Gornal, had the makeover in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge. So far he has had pledges of more than £1,000 in sponsorship.

He said: "Everyone has been so supportive and Castle Taxis of Dudley have agreed to help transport me around pubs in the locality so that I can say a personal thank you to all those who have donated the funds."

Janet Jones, head of fundraising at the hospice said: "We really appreciate all of Alan's efforts."

Rethink on festival as support falters

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increase its appeal to a younger audience.

Ian Rawlings, from the Kingsford Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir, who host the concert every year, said he would be looking into joining forces with the Royal British Legion and other ex-Servicemen's clubs.

"The problem is, we have an ageing audience and every time one veteran dies you might lose four or five people who might have joined them at the concert," he said.

"It just doesn't seem to appeal to a modern audience so we will have to look closely at our marketing strategy and how we stage the event – and we will have to do that as soon as this one is over."

The traditional poppy-drop, carried out by concert hall staff during the minute's silence, will be slightly different this year as council health and safety watchdogs raised concerns. In previous years, staff had to clamber across the roof and up a ladder to reach the drop spot. But Mr Rawlings said he was now examining other options such as having a netting system to release the poppies. Tickets are £8, available from Dudley box office on 01384 838863.



Gentleman Songsters: John Smith, Ian Rawlings and Paul Whitehead with, left, president of Dudley RAF Association John Deane and, right, secretary of Worcester and Foresters Gordon Willetts

Dangerous weed is costing thousands

Councils across the region are spending thousands dealing with a weed that can damage the foundations of buildings and destroy gardens.

Land owners, householders and gardeners fear the invasion of Japanese Knotweed, first introduced into Britain in the 19th century, which can grow at a rate of four inches a day. If left unchecked it can kill off native species and in some cases damage building foundations. Dudley Council has set aside around £100,000 to deal with it.

Now borough bosses have decided to develop a formal policy to deal with control of the species.

Staff in the authority's urban environment department have been surveying the borough and say so far it appears that around 150,000sqm of private and council land is affected.

Infestations have been found on a

sites which include derelict land, open spaces, school grounds, residential gardens and conservation sites. Neighbouring Sandwell Council chiefs say they spend around £10,000 a year on the problem.

Councillor Derek Rowley said: "When it is reported and it is on council owned land we treat the site twice a year with weedkiller and that site is kept on a register so that the position can be monitored regularly."

South Staffordshire Council has spent around £5,000 so far this year treating Japanese Knotweed. There are 16 sites in the district where it is known to be growing.

Council bosses in Cannock and Stafford say they don't have a dedicated budget to deal with the problem but treat it as and when a problem occurs on their land. It is a similar situation in Walsall where bosses say workers normally spray the weed.

Jean shows her talent



Variety show organiser Jenny Marson is with Steve Welch and Jean Martyn

Britain's Got Talent star Jean Martyn was among performers at a variety show in the Black Country.

Organist Jean, who is from Brewood, was guest of honour at the Compton Hospice Annual Gala.

More than 150 guests turned out at Baggeridge Social Welfare Centre in Dudley.

Jean was joined on stage by Rod Stewart tribute act Garry Pease, magician Christopher Congreve and Ozgen, a belly

dancer from Turkey. The event was compered by Steve Welch, from Lower Gornal. All proceeds from the event went to the Wolverhampton charity Compton Hospice.

Jean, who made it to the live finals this year of BGT, played a 25-minute medley of songs on her keyboard including Crocodile Rock, Great Balls of Fire and Raining Men.

She said: "It's lovely to play to a small, select group."

Deaths in the workplace are on the increase

The number of people killed at work in the West Midlands increased by 44 per cent in the past year, new figures show.

There were 13 fatal injuries in the year to March, up from nine in the previous 12 months. The number of deaths had fallen in each of the last three years. The region mirrored the national picture, with deaths on the rise but falls in the number of people injured and unwell at work.

There were 2,259 major injuries reported, including amputations, fractures and burns, compared to 2,464 in 2009/10. Total injuries were down 5.7 per cent.

Nationally 171 fatal injuries were suffered in the workplace, up from 147 in the previous 12 months.

Major injuries were down from 26,268 to 24,700 and there were 90,653 other injuries serious enough to keep people off work for four or more days, the Health and Safety Executive statistics show. In 2009/10 the figure was 96,427. An estimated 1.2 million people said they were suffering from an illness caused or made worse by their work, down from 1.3 million in 2009/10.

The HSE said Britain continues to have the lowest rate of fatal occupational injuries in Europe.

HSE chairman Judith Hackitt said: "The fall in the number of people being injured by work is, of course, to be welcomed but we did also see an increase in the number of fatalities during the year."

"Britain can be proud that it has one of the best health and safety records in Europe but, as the increase in the number of fatalities makes clear, we can never let up in our commitment to addressing the serious risks which continue to cause death and injury in workplaces. HSE will continue to work with employers, employees and other organisations to maintain, and where necessary improve, health and safety standards. We all have a responsibility to make sure serious workplace risks are sensibly managed."

No 'viable' offers of buyer for stores

Stores across the Black Country that closed when a DIY chain went into administration have failed to attract a single "viable" offer from potential buyers.

And administrators have said that the landlords of each Focus store have so far refused offers for the leases to be surrendered – leaving the outlets with an uncertain future.

Stores in Wolverhampton, Wednesfield, Kingswinford, Aldridge and Walsall all closed down in June with the loss of more than 100 jobs. Administrators Ernst & Young moved in and started looking for firms willing to take over, but so far none have been found. The administrators offered to surrender the lease to the landlord of each property – but this has been refused at each site.

A total of 17 jobs went at a shop in the Peaf Centre, Staffs Street in Wolverhampton, along with 17 in Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, 18 at Walsall Retail Park, 19 in Copper Lane, Aldridge, and 30 in Dudley Road, Kingswinford.

Ernst & Young spokesman Nisan Edung said: "The administrators undertook a property marketing exercise in respect of all of Focus's trading stores. Unfortunately we did not receive viable offers in respect of these five stores."

He added: "On vacation, the stores were handed back to the respective landlords, and the store leases offered for surrender. Focus retains no interest in these stores, however, to date our offer to surrender the leases to these stores has not been accepted by the respective landlords."

Focus went into administration in May when it was announced 122 stores across the country would close.

Classical music show

Young composers are hoping to get their work performed by professional musicians at a concert.

Classical group The Korma Trio will run a workshop at King Edward VI Sixth Form College, Stourbridge on November 18. The following day, Saturday November 19, they will perform at St James's Church, Wollaston, and are looking to include some of the students' work.

Tickets for the 7.30pm show are £7, with under-18s free, and are available on the night from the church or from Music Matters in Market Street, Stourbridge.

The scheme has been organised by Local & Live, a not-for-profit group of classical music enthusiasts.

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Decision due over funding

A trust battling to buy a historic castle to ensure it remains open to the public will learn of a vital bid for £2.5 million funding has been successful later this month.

Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust will learn if their initial application for cash from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been agreed on November 15.

Members said the decision would be a very important step in their plans to buy the site and admitted it would be a " nail-biting " two weeks until the decision was made.

The group is already on the way to securing £25,000 in match-funding which is needed as part of the bid and is confident all of the cash will be available by next month. Much of this money has been raised through donations and charity events.

If the first-phase funding is agreed on November 15 the group will then need to send a second, more detailed, application to the trust for final approval. Members said they were " optimistic " of a positive decision on the funding but were continuing to look at other options, should the bid fail.

The group wants to buy the castle from the Church of England to ensure the site stays open to the public.

It was deemed surplus more than a year ago, and the trust was originally given an exclusive option to buy it.

But talks broke down after the trust said the asking price and conditions were unrealistic. Church officials decided to put the site on the open market.

Homes plan for pub site

A plan for new homes on the site of a pub named after one of Dudley's most famous sons has been given the go-ahead.

The Duncan Edwards pub, between Priory Road and Maple Road in Dudley, was knocked down three years ago after falling into disrepair.

Residents and councillors called for the land to be brought back into use after it became a magnet for vandalism. It will be given a new lease of life after Dudley Council's development control committee agreed with officers' recommendations and granted outline approval for 12 homes.

Landowners Clubhile Ltd already had permission to create three shops and 26 parking spaces leading to Priory Road.

But the developer now wants to forge ahead with plans for the site which is boarded-up and overgrown.

The new homes will be two-storey, four-bedroom houses.

Dance for charity

A barn dance for the Alzheimer's Society will be held at Hagley Community Centre near Stourbridge on November 11. Music for the dances will be provided by Worcestershire band Banjars. Dancers are asked to bring their own drinks and food towards an American tipper. Tickets are £7 for adults and £3.50 for children from Alzheimer's Society on 01384 295355 or 01562 886300.

Winter safety tips

Worcestershire County Council has launched a new campaign called the Winter Weather, Be Safe, Be Warm and Be a Good Neighbour to ensure householders stay safe.

Simon Geraghty, of the council said: "Whether in your home or on the road, it is important to stay safe and warm during the chilly winter. With careful planning and a couple of useful tips, we can protect ourselves

and make this weather bearable."

Motorists are being encouraged to check the weather before heading out, and ensure their wipers, tyres and lights are ready and safe for the trip. It is also recommended to prepare an 'emergency kit' which could include a extra mobile battery, blankets, flashlight, spare batteries, first aid kit, extra clothing, shovel, water and non-perishable food items.

Council fighting back over spurious claims

A woman who tripped over a neighbour's bin bag and someone who slipped on a wet piece of litter are among hundreds of spurious personal injury claims lodged with Dudley Council.

More than 830 people have lodged claims amounting to around £4 million with the authority since the start of 2008 – but 464 of those cases have been ruled "spurious" and thrown out. Council bosses have revealed they have paid out just £500,000 for the claims.

They warned greedy personal injury lawyers who launch dozens of no-win, no-fee claims that they would "rigorously defend" such cases, which in recent months have included someone who fell over in the rain on a pedestrian crossing and tried to sue.

Councillor Tim Wright, said the authority would also consider claiming back any costs incurred by the authority if the claim was unfounded.

"No matter how silly a claim sounds, obviously we always undertake a full investigation," he said. "But we will not take money out of the taxpayer's pocket to fund these spurious claims."

He said the council was willing to admit liability where appropriate – but in the past four years had amounted to just 99 cases.

David Eveleigh, for the legion, said: "The memorial is a testimony to the bravery of local heroes and we feel privileged not only to be able to hold the Remembrance Service here at the museum but also to keep alive the memories of Black Country soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice."

Employees

The Springfield Brewery Retired Employees Association has held a service at the monument each year since 1923. The Remembrance Service was originally intended to commemorate those who died in the First World War but after the Second World War the ceremony was extended to focus on both conflicts. The event takes place at 10.30 am on November 11.

• The Black Country Living Museum has won a local award. The site in Tipton Road, Dudley, was named the Best Daytime Family Attraction award at the Beacon Best Awards 2011. Beacon Radio listeners nominated more than 1,000 businesses within 11 categories.

The public then voted for their favourite businesses in the Black Country. The civic hall in Wolverhampton was named as the best night-club or entertainment venue.

The best takeaway was deemed to be Percy Plonkers Hot Dogs in Cannock.

And Tipton Toddlers Day Nursery was named best nursery.

Further 269 claims are still being negotiated. Finance councillor David Blood said: "While we take our responsibilities and genuine liabilities very seriously indeed, we also take the need to protect taxpayers' money very seriously too."

Public sector organisations such as councils can often be seen as an easy target for compensation claims but people need to be aware we will not be taken for a ride.

"While the authority will always rigorously defend spurious claims the council will also always fully accept its responsibility to compensate individuals where the authority is found to be liable."

Other nonsense claims have included a roller skater who was knocked over by another skater at a leisure centre.

£10,000 poppy target

The Bewdley branch of the Royal British Legion has launched its annual Poppy Appeal – with their sights set on reaching the £10,000 benchmark for the first time.

Councillor Paul Gittins, who is chairman of the branch helped launch this year's appeal with a cheque for £1,000 which he raised during his stint as Mayor of Bewdley last year. A concert was held at St

Anne's Church to launch this year's appeal on Saturday, featuring a performance from the Kidderminster Male Voice Choir, who were supported by solo vocalist and West End performer David Lawrence.

Last year, the branch raised a record £9,891.60 for the appeal.

For more information about the appeal in Bewdley, call Councillor Gittins on 01299 404113.

Council hopes for returns

Hopes have been raised that a Midland council will get back millions of pounds it invested in Icelandic banks following a court ruling.

Wyre Forest District Council invested £9 million in the banks and has been able to reclaim just over a third since they collapsed two and a half years ago.

Council bosses have repeatedly stated they were confident they will get most of the cash back as it has been allocated priority status, meaning it should receive a return of 90p for every £1 invested.

However, bond holders in the banks challenged this for a second time.

But the Icelandic Supreme Court has now ruled in a test case that the priority status can remain.

The council must now wait to see if this verdict is applied to all creditors – including itself – but bosses say the result is a positive step forward.

The council has a £3m deposit with Landsbanki which was due to mature in late October 2008. The court action has been ongoing for over a year and has involved councils from across the country. Council leader John Campion said: "We are delighted the Icelandic Supreme Court has found in favour of UK local authorities and other UK wholesale depositors."

MP backing disclosure

A Black Country MP has voiced his support for Government proposals to give women the right to know whether a new partner has a history of domestic violence.

The Home Office has launched a consultation over how a national domestic violence disclosure scheme could work in practice following a campaign by the father of Clare Wood, who was strangled in 2009 by an ex-boyfriend she had met through Facebook.

Unknown to her, her murderer, George Appleton, had three previous convictions under the anti-stalking Protection from Harassment Act 1987, and had kidnapped a previous girlfriend at knifepoint.

Dudley South MP Chris Kelly said: "It's right we consider disclosing information about an individual's history of domestic violence to their partner if it could protect potential victims of this terrible crime."

Blood Brothers play at town hall

Olivier Award-winning play Blood Brothers play a week-long stint on stage in Stourbridge.

The play, by Willy Russell, tells of twin brothers Mickey and Edward, who were separated at birth and ended up taking different paths through life. One is an Oxford-graduate and the other is in prison.

But then they both fall for the same girl, causing a rift in their newfound friendship. The Stourbridge Theatre Company, will stage the play at the Town Hall from November 24 and 26. Tickets range from £7 to £10. The curtain rises at 7.30pm.

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New fitness suite opened

A new fitness suite, which is part of a £1 million refurbishment project at Stourbridge College, has opened to students and staff.

It has been built at the Hagley Road Centre and follows the redevelopment of the sports hall.

It contains the latest gym equipment including treadmills, exercise bikes, cross trainers and rowing machines and is part of a

wider ongoing investment in upgrading facilities at the college.

Principal Lynette Cutting said: "We've invested in new leisure facilities."

The facilities are being used by the sports team.

"We have a variety of successful sports courses on offer and it's vital that students have access to facilities which include changing

and showering facilities."

Plans are being drawn up to refurbish the learning resources centre and reception at the Hagley Road Centre to create a revamped student support services area.

There will also be a new multi-media centre where students attending the college will benefit from advanced technology systems and equipment.

Crash victim named

A man from the Black Country killed in a head-on smash between two vans on a country lane near Stourbridge has been named.

He was 55-year-old Robert James Hudson, of Lower High Street, Stourbridge.

The tragedy happened at the junction of Chester Road and Clanbrook Road, near the Fox Inn at Stourton. Mr Hudson, who was driving one of the vans involved –

a white Volkswagen – was declared dead at the scene.

The driver of the second van, belonging to City Link, a 34-year-old man from Tipton, suffered minor head injuries.

Staffordshire police appealed for witnesses, including a passer-by who helped out in the aftermath of the crash, to contact Sgt Matthew Walker or Sgt Tim Heap on 0300 123 4455.

Quarry permit is likely

A permit granting a quarry in Kingswinford permission to crush and recycle bricks is set for approval – despite more than 1,300 objections.

People living nearby are concerned about dust and noise. WCL Quarries has applied to Dudley Council for permission to carry out the work at the Ketley Quarry site in Dudley Road.

A report published by the council states a permit with conditions may be the only way to ensure restrictions such as dust levels were complied with. Environment chief Councillor David Stanley is due to sign the permit on November 10.

Pensioner Barry Short, aged 72, lives in nearby Robin Close and said he was "very disappointed" by the news. "I would have liked to see them take a bit more notice of all the people who signed petitions and sent in objections," he said.

WCL director Simon Wimmer said the crushed bricks would be used to ensure the ground was stable enough to be built on when the quarry was restored in 2042. "We will continue to take residents' concerns seriously."

Van man arrested

A man has been arrested for being equipped to steal after a van was spotted in suspicious circumstances at Frankley Green, near Halesowen.

Officers went to Frankley Green after receiving a call at about 11.25pm on October 29, about a white van which was being driven around there.

Police subsequently stopped a van and arrested the driver on suspicion of going equipped to steal. A number of items were seized from the vehicle including a sat nav which was suspected as having been stolen.

The man, who is in his 30s, was questioned and released on police bail until December 16 pending further inquiries.

Drinkers putting bite on pub over dog ban

Pet owners are boycotting an award-winning Black Country pub after bosses banned dogs. The Beacon Hotel, Sedgley has angered customers who say pets have been allowed inside for as long as they can remember.

They are now collecting a petition in a bid to try to get the decision reversed. However, Beacon landlord John Hughes said he had become concerned for people's safety after three "serious complaints" were made. One of the incidents involved a man being bitten on the ankle.

The Beacon, which has been named West Midlands Pub of the Year by Camra for four years running, was one of only a few pubs where dogs were allowed, said Mr Hughes.

Victoria Perry, aged 33, said she was shocked to see a notice in the pub informing customers that dogs would be banned. She has been taking Wilf, her four-year-old King Charles Spaniel, along to The Beacon for four years, and has been going there regularly for the last eight years.

She claims to have the support of scores of regulars in her fight against the new rules.

Mrs Perry, a nurse in A&E at Dudley's Russell Hall Hospital, said: "Dogs have been welcome as long as anyone can remember so I was really shocked when I saw that notice."

Atmosphere

"A lot of people go to the pub for the good beer and the atmosphere – but also because it is dog-friendly. People take their dogs out for a walk and then pop in for a drink."

Mr Hughes said: "Pubs that sell food no longer allow dogs but, as we only focus on ale, we tend to get more than our fair share here. We love dogs, don't get me wrong, and it is regrettable that we have had to make this decision."

"But I have a duty of care to my customers. We have children's areas and I am concerned that something serious could happen." Mr Hughes sparked controversy last year when he banned a blind dog from his pub, saying there had been a number of complaints about 12-year-old mongrel Toby urinating on the floor.



Front, Victoria Perry with Louise Sharp, and Wilf, and Chris Sharp, with Max who are organising a petition.

Have your say on polling sites

Residents across the borough are invited to have their say as part of a review of polling stations in Dudley.

Every four years councils have to look at its polling districts and polling stations to see if anything needs changing.

People are being asked for comments on the location and ease of access to the current polling stations until November 18.

Head of electoral services Alison

Malkin said: "This review is an important opportunity for members of the public to give their views on the location and suitability of polling stations across Dudley borough."

Information on the current arrangements is available on the council's website at www.dudley.gov.uk.

People can also visit the electoral services department at Kudos House in Ednam Road, Dudley.

Waiting for cut-price cuts



The hair and beauty salon within the new Tesco Extra supermarket



Manager Angelina Lawrence, Lynsey Round, Paige Corns, Matt Webb, Ravinder Kaur



Catherine Coakley has a break from shopping

The new Tesco at Burnt Tree, Dudley can boast some of the best coiffured and manicured shoppers after being among the first in the country to launch cut price hair and beauty in its aisles.

The idea is really taking off, with shoppers queuing for £10 wash, cut and blow dries. But, for some, it has meant waits of 90 minutes or more as staff in the Regis hair and beauty salon snip and primp away non-stop 10 hours a day. However, with no appointments you have to wait on one of two small benches – or, at peak times, stand – for however long it takes until a stylist is free. Neither can you register, pop off for a coffee or to do your shopping and expect to keep the same place in the queue when you return.

That wait can be up to two hours – as one of the three stylists on duty was occupied by a young Dudley woman. She had arrived with long curly tresses and stylist Matt Webb had to cut her hair as she went for a sleek "Victoria Beckham" style bob.

Her bill was still only £10 – and, meanwhile, at least one customer was charged just £5, with a manicure thrown in, to compensate her for her wait. And, while most people were happy to queue, one couple did storm off, despite being offered a free hairdo, when they were told they must wait more than an hour. The popularity of the salon is boosted by the £10 offer. After November 12 it will go up to £15 and, after December 10, it will rise to the normal price of £20. Manager Angelina Lawrence said: "In our first three weeks, we've been doing about 30 customers a day and staff have been working flat-out."

Scheme aims to cut call outs to fire alarms

A scheme used in the West Midlands which cuts the number of firefighters sent to automatic fire alarms could be used in the Wye Forest.

At the moment crews are sent out automatically to any alarm, but under the new plans, they would carry out an assessment first, to see if they are needed to go to the scene.

Fire control room operators will in future ask questions to establish if there is a fire – or if it was triggered accidentally. But bosses say they will still go out to "high risk" premises such as care homes and schools.

At hospitals and non-residential premises, including offices, shops, factories and warehouses, where the fire service says there is less of a risk, they will only attend once a 999 call is received.

Birmingham and Wolverhampton introduced the system earlier this year. Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service says 95 per cent of automatic fire alarm callouts turn out to be false.

Around a third of the 8,000 callouts the service receives each year involve the alarms, and they say crews lose an estimated 4,000 hours attending false alarms.

Area Commander George Sherry said false alarms "divert services from real emergencies, potentially putting life and property at risk".

He added: "Furthermore, they present an unnecessary risk to crews and the public whilst responding under blue-lights and they divert time away from firefighter training, community fire safety and other education work."

"With these factors in mind, it was essential that we carried out a review and implement changes in the way we respond to alarms – particularly in the current climate where public resources are stretched."

Full details of the proposals can be found at www.hwf.org.uk. A consultation into the plans closes on November 11. In Birmingham, West Midlands Fire Service started sending just one engine instead of two to automatic alarms in January.

Third restaurant is on brink of a deal

A restaurant firm is on the brink of signing a deal on the third and final main restaurant outlet at the Merry Hill Shopping Centre's food hall.

A new two-tier restaurant is set to open next to Pizza Express, which alongside Nandos will form the frontage to the Eat Central complex.

However bosses at the centre remained tight-lipped over the identity of the company.

The deal was set to be signed by the firm at the end of last week.

Merry Hill spokeswoman Kelly Reed said: "I cannot say who we are dealing with, as it is commercially sensitive information at this stage."

"We will be able to name the company when that has been done, which should be completed by Friday."

Plans submitted to Dudley Council by centre owners Westfield reveal that since the £24million Eat Central food court opened two years ago, in October 2009, the unit next to Pizza Express has failed to attract any interest.

But earlier this year bosses were approached by the unnamed company who said they would pursue moving into the vacant unit if one of the storerooms at the back could be turned into a takeaway facility.

The plans were approved by council planning officers this week, paving the way for the deal to be signed.

Two are remanded over stab incident outside pub

Two people have been remanded in custody after appearing in court following a stabbing.

The attack took place outside the Star and Garter pub in High Street, Droitwich, on Friday.

A man in his 40s was taken to the Alexandra Hospital for treatment for stab wounds and was later discharged.

Police arrested a 17-year-old youth and an 18-year-old man on suspicion of wounding with intent and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear or violence.

The pair were later charged and appeared at Worcester Magistrates' Court last week when they were remanded in custody.

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Residents look to hire legal crusader

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Elderly residents and campaigners have pledged to hire a crusading lawyer to help in their battle to overturn a council decision to shut a care home in Dudley borough.

Solicitor Yvonne Hossack, who helped elderly residents fighting to stay at the ill-fated Underhill House, Underhill, Wolverhampton and campaigned over care home closures in Staffordshire, has met with campaigners trying to save New Bradley Hall in Kingswinford. The group has now vowed to start fundraising to cover its legal costs.

Dudley Council plans to shut the home in Compton Drive, along with three others within three years in a shake-up of adult social care services in the borough.

Miss Hossack told residents she believed they could have a legal case to fight the closure and worked through various options about what to do next with them.

Decision

She said: "The residents here have a case that the council should answer into the decision behind why this council run care home is closing. It sounds to me that there was little or no consultation and this is no way to treat the elderly residents."

She added: "It is a tough battle to stop care home closures but that is not to say that something can't be done."

After meeting with the solicitor, residents confirmed they planned to start a fundraising campaign to help fund their legal fight and secure the services of Miss Hossack. They will need to raise at least £3,000 initially.

Under the council plans, New Bradley Hall, New Bridge House in Coseley and New Swinfold Hall in Stourbridge would close their doors by April 2014, along with Shenstone House in Halesowen, which would close in March.

Council chiefs say the decision to close the homes has not been made to cope with budget cuts but is instead part of moves to keep elderly people independent and in their own homes for longer.

In other cases Miss Hossack has worked on she has secured assurances by council leaders to build a new home to replace three facing closure in Nottinghamshire and worked on campaigns to keep care homes open in Hull, East Yorkshire.



Residents and family members who are worried about the possible closure of New Bradley Hall, Kingswinford

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Residents' fears on eco park

A new £120 million eco park in Coseley will house a waste processing plant – angering residents who fear it will damage the area.

They are now launching a campaign to try to stop the plant from being built. The facility would convert thousands of tons of rubbish into electricity.

The eco park has been billed as "one of the most environmentally-friendly employment destinations in the Midlands". It is expected to create up to 1,300 new jobs on the 66-acre site stretching between Birmingham New Road and Sedgley Road West, which will also contain a supermarket and 200 homes. But campaigners fear the

Energy Recovery Facility, which reacts waste with gases at a high temperature to generate heat and electricity, could actually damage the environment.

Residents say it had not been made clear that a waste plant was part of the plans. They are concerned that the fumes coming from the chimney stack could pollute the atmosphere.

Developers say the plant is not an incinerator as the waste would not actually combust. They say each year it will process up to 120,000 tons of waste and generate up to 11MW of electricity, enough for 11,000 homes.

Carla Ward, of Thunderbolt Way, is starting a petition against the plant.

She said: "As a neighbour to the site, I'm really shocked by the scale of the plans for the ERF, and the pollution it will cause."

Graham Willson, director of the site's owner, Skelton Group Investments, said they had been "open" about the waste plant proposals.

He added: "This process is 10 times cleaner than any other of its kind which allows us to use it in an area like Coseley. I am confident we can allay people's fears and show them this is not the same as an incinerator."

A planning application for the eco park was submitted to Dudley Council last week.

Emin's art is part of exhibition

It's fitness fun for the over 50s

Older people across Dudley are being given the chance to keep fit – with yoga, belly dancing and Zumba classes.

Age UK's Spring Board project has funded a new activity base at the Brierley Hill Methodist Church.

Sessions, for those age 50 and over, will run every Monday between 10am and 4pm at the Bank Street Church and they include special sessions aimed at men.

To mark the official launch of the new sessions an official opening was held.

Those who went along got the chance to enjoy some free refreshments as well as exercises such as Zumba, belly dancing, line dancing and yoga.

Springboard Co-ordinator Jenny Worwood: "We already have a centre at Merry Hill but it has proved so popular we have expanded. The sessions are aimed at any one over the age of 50."

For further information contact 01384 572365.



Tai Chi instructor Barry Westley is pictured leading a Chi Batón Yoga class for some of the older residents at Brierley Hill Methodist Church, Bank Street, Brierley Hill

A new artwork by controversial artist Tracey Emin is on show at the Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford.

The piece Trust Me is a neon light installation and is on loan from the White Cube gallery in London.

Her neon pieces are created from her own hand-drawn designs and made in London.

Emin, who has been seen recently as the final celebrity to research her family history in the most recent series of Who Do You Think You Are?, has won many awards for her work.

The piece is part of the Light Fantastic exhibition at the Dudley Council museum which explores how six artists use neon in their work.

As well as Emin, the artists featured in the display are Sarah Blood, Sharon Foley, Jessica Lloyd-Jones, Keith Brocklehurst and Richard William Wheeler.

Light Fantastic runs until February 19.

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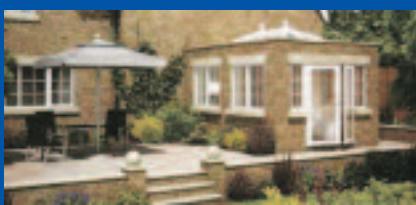
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Views are sought on library move

The public are being urged to have their say on plans which could see Netherton library moved from its historic home.

The library, which houses Netherton Arts Centre, would be switched to the Savoy Centre in Northfield Road, Netherton, under plans drawn up to make the service more efficient, improve access and save cash.

Dudley Council bosses have launched a consultation and are asking people for their views. The consultation closes on November 11 and the results will be shared at a meeting of the cabinet in December.

Councillor Adrian Turner, cabinet member for libraries, said: "Netherton Library provides a great service and is popular with many residents. Asking people to tell us what they would like helps us plan ahead."

People can take part in the consultation during library opening hours which are: Mondays and Fridays, 9am-1pm and 2-7pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm; Wednesdays from 9.30am-1pm and 2-5pm; and on Saturdays from 9am-1pm.

Town ready for lights switch on

Brierley Hill is set for its annual Christmas lights switch on celebration.

The event will take place at the Moor Centre on November 19 from 1pm to 5pm. Free activities will include a Christmas grotto, reindeer, stilt walking, a bouncy castle, face painting and a caricaturist.

Father Christmas will switch on the lights at 5pm.

Jobs boost for region with £3m business cash award

More than 100 jobs are set to be created in Sandwell and Dudley thanks to a £3 million Government cash injection to boost businesses.

The money has been secured with support from Sandwell Council and the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and will assist four local businesses and one in neighbouring Dudley to expand their business operations.

It followed a submission by the council as part of round two of the Regional Growth Fund.

The successful businesses are Angle Ring Co Ltd, Tipton; Caparo Precision Strip, West Bromwich; Pargat & Co Ltd, West Bromwich; NDC Polythene Ltd, Old Hill and Thomas Dudley in Dudley.

The money will be shared among the businesses who will generate a further £11m investment themselves.

Sandwell Council said that it expected the investment would create 115 new jobs and safeguard a further 156 posts during the lifetime of the projects.

Future

The five businesses will now have to go through a period where their future plans will be scrutinised by the Department for Business Innovation & Skills prior to final contracts being signed.

Councillor Ian Jones, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for jobs and economy, said: "This is great news for the businesses and great news for Sandwell and the wider Black Country."

The council is proud of the co-ordinating role it played in pulling the RGF bid together and emphasises Sandwell Council's commitment to work with local businesses."

However, Councillor Jones added the award was just a "drop in the ocean" of cash that used to come to the West Midlands via the Regional Development Agency which the Government has withdrawn.

"It is a fraction of the cash we previously got," he added.

Elevenses for a golden couple



Thomas Woodbine 72 and Marlene Woodbine 68. They met while in the services and will be celebrating their Golden Wedding on 11.11.2011 at 11.00am. Inset on their big day. They were married at Oxford Register Office.

Black Country couple Tom and Marlene Woodbine could never fail to remember their wedding anniversary – it's at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

And this time – in the 11th year of the century – it's their golden anniversary.

The Armistice Day link is fitting for a couple who were both in the forces when they met and married after a whirlwind romance.

Tom, now aged 72, and Marlene, 68, of Durham Road, Netherton, did not at first

realise the significance of the time and date of their wedding, although they knew it was Remembrance Day.

But ever since, when they celebrate their own special anniversary, they spare a thought for those who have lost their lives in war.

"We think it's a miracle that it was such a memorable date and time and the number 11 has figured large in our lives – we often exchange a glance if we spot the clock says 11.11," said Tom, a retired electrician.

RBL club is forced to close

A British Legion club in the Black Country has shut suddenly, just days before Remembrance Sunday.

The Blackheath British Legion Memorial Club, which had been running for around 90 years, has been forced to close due to its inability to cover its rent.

Dwindling numbers at the Powke Lane social club meant staff could not cover payments to the national British Legion office and members voted for it to cease trading.

The British Legion branch which continues to operate and the Remembrance parade on November 13 is expected to attract around 2,500 people.

Wayne Parkes, branch secretary of Blackheath's Royal British Legion said the club had fallen victim to the tough economic conditions. He added: "A special general meeting was called and the members were told the club was no longer financially viable. Over 90 per cent of the voting members present agreed the closure."

Blackheath Councillor Bob Price said: "It's a piece of history that's sad to lose. Obviously the people that used to use it are no longer there and I hate to see places like this disappear."

Meeting of history group

The next meeting of Stourbridge Historical Society will take place on November 17.

Brian Draper will speak at a talk on Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale at 7.30pm. The meeting will be held in the Ambleside Room at Stourbridge Town Hall. Visitors are welcome.

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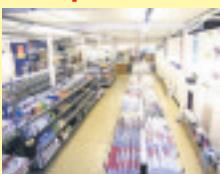
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Harbour safe for youngsters

A care home for young adults in Stourbridge, which has operated without the correct planning permission for eight years, has been allowed to remain open despite a wave of protests.

Under planning laws the Safe Harbour Centre, in Hagley Road, was only allowed to be a residential home for the elderly but it was revealed that guideline had been broken.

The centre had also been home to up to seven young adults with autism – contrary to planning rules for the property.

Members of Dudley Council development control committee unanimously voted in favour of removing

conditions which banned the exclusive use of the property for elderly residents at a recent meeting.

But residents say they are furious with the decision, adding they were considering lodging a complaint with the Local Government Ombudsman.

Around 300 people had signed a petition in favour of allowing the centre to stay open, although those who signed may say they lived outside the immediate area. They also claimed there were increased parking and noise problems.

A 103-name petition was collected and 44 letters sent to the council opposing the application.

Early hours trail for fast food diner

McDonalds can extend its morning opening hours at its Coseley restaurant for a trial period after it was awarded planning permission.

The decision was taken by Dudley Council's development control committee to allow the restaurant a limited extension in the mornings, with a review of the application in six months.

The restaurant, in Birmingham New Road, had applied to the authority to vary its planning conditions, asking for it to open at 5.30am instead of 7am daily. The store already opens until 11pm each night.

But committee members raised fears the restaurant would become a nuisance with customers in their cars pulling up in the early hours.

Instead they agreed to a compromise allowing the restaurant to open at 6am for a six-month trial. They will be reviewed to see what impact it has had on the nearby community.

A petition of 32 signatures from residents opposing the plan had been submitted to the committee ahead of a recent meeting.

Kieran earns his stripes at station



Kieran Graham, 11, of Halesowen, with officers Ian Smith, Mark Devereaux, Steve Franklin, Carl Foster with Falcon and Keiron Davies, with Tito

Schoolboy Kieran Graham was given a taste of life on the beat when he was taken for a spin in a police car.

It was a dream come true for the 11-year-old from Halesowen who wants to be a policeman when he grows up.

The visit to Tipton Police Station was organised by the Wishing Well charity at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley. Kieran, a pupil at Newfield Park Primary School in Halesowen, spent a few days on the children's ward there in June.

The Beauty Lounge

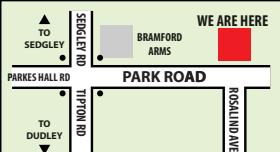
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Members launch a church sponsor plan

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A business plan is being drawn up to help secure the future of a landmark Dudley church which closed eight years ago. The St John's Church Preservation Group wants to launch a sponsorship scheme to restore the building in Kates Hill.

Members are hoping that pledges of funding from business, community groups and individuals will help kick-start the project. It is expected to cost between £150,000 and £200,000 to get it reopened. Their work has to be carried out on the Grade II-listed building to restore it.

The estimate for that has been put at £1 million. Campaigners are hoping people will come forward to sponsor the church through donating services or goods that could be used to get the building up and running again.

Chairwoman Deb Brownlee said: "We aim to create the first fully sponsored church building in the UK."

"A full sponsor package is being compiled including the creation of executive sponsor only area within the building."

Disturbance

"This way we can fund and restore St John's Church without any disturbance of historic fabric other than for essential redecoration, re-wiring and installation of amenities."

Meanwhile, the group is appealing for anyone interested in saving St John's Church to go online and complete a survey at the website.

Suggestions on uses of the building will be used to help determine its future.

They are also looking for individuals, sports clubs and other groups who may want to use the building for their regular activities.

The link can be found on www.oxfordshireresearch.com and www.savestjohnschurch.zoomshare.com and surveys need to be filled in by November 18.

Anyone interesting in getting involved in the sponsorship scheme can call 07871 195042.

The church is where bare-knuckle fighter William Perry, known as the Tipton Slasher, is buried.

It opened in 1840 and was listed by English Heritage in 2009.

It was closed because of safety fears although recent surveys have shown the building is not in as bad a condition as first thought.

Group weighs in for charity



Slimming World leader Michaela Mucklow presents £300 to Mary Stevens Hospice's Janet Jones, with the weight-loss group at Lutley Community Centre in Halesowen

Michaela Mucklow, who runs two groups, said the event, held at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill in September, had been such a success they were now planning to hold a similar awards ceremony every year.

"Everyone was in high spirits and giving generously," she said.

"We asked all the members which charity they would want the money to go to and Mary Stevens Hospice, being a local one, came out top. It was lovely handing out so many awards to people who have come along to group to turn their health around and lose weight."

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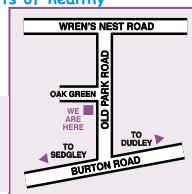
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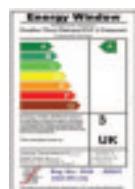
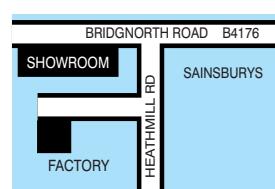
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IT'S sure to be a rousing start to the festive period. The Tattoo will feature 1,000 of the best military musicians and performers from across Europe and the UK.

And we've teamed up with the people at Birmingham's NIA to offer nine readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the Birmingham International Christmas Tattoo being held in December.

For the first time the Norwegian King's Guard Band and their drill team will be present, joining the world-famous Band and Drums of Her Majesty's Royal Marines and the Corps of Drums of the Yorkshire Volunteers.

Gymnastic

Joining them will be the Band of the Liberation army from The Netherlands and the cream of British youth with the National Youth Marching Band.

The Tattoo is due to be held at the NIA on Saturday, December 10 at 6pm and Sunday, December 11 at 2pm and you can win tickets for the Saturday evening performance.

On top of all the musical mastery, there will be a dazzling gymnastic display from the Blue Falcons Gymnastic Display Team. The Inter-Service Field Gun Competition will bring their heavy guns to the arena along with the massed standard bearers from the Royal British Legion and there will be a dog display.

Finale

The performance will end with a spectacular festive finale featuring all the 1,000 performers.

Tickets are on sale now, priced at £22.50, £20, 18.50, £16.50 and £14.50 plus booking and transaction fees and are available online at www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 338 8000.

More information on the Tattoo can be found at www.birminghamtattoo.co.uk

Tattoo features 1,000 of best military musicians



HOW TO ENTER

To stand a chance of winning simply answer the following question:

What is the name of the gymnastics display team?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number (only one entry per household) to Tattoo Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Closing date: Thursday, November 17. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

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thechronicle

Fire services pay out £200,000

Fire services in West Midlands and Staffordshire paid out more than £200,000 asking for advice from consultants, new figures reveal.

Experts were brought in to help in areas such as IT, website design, health and safety and purchasing between January 2010 and September 2011.

The spending - totalling £212,097 - comes as bosses at both brigades try to shave millions of pounds off their budgets for the next four years.

Around £149,600 was spent on outside help from consultancy firms by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service during the 18 month period, while the bill for West Midlands Fire Service was

£62,497. The spending in Staffordshire included £59,477 on employing an equality and diversity consultant. And around £24,517 was paid out on business expertise, although this was later reimbursed by Improvement and Efficiency for West Midlands.

Director of organisational development at Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Becci Bryant said the spending equated to approximately 0.2 per cent of the service's total budget.

"There are occasions when we require the services of consultants. This is usually because we don't have the expertise in a certain area or we require the services of an independent

party. Decisions to employ consultants are not taken lightly and ensuring we receive good value for money is always at the forefront of our minds," she said.

Among the spending by West Midlands Fire Service was around £9,300 paid out to human resources firm Howard Parvin Personnel Consultancy and £1,600 to IT firm UC4 Ltd.

Chairman of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority John Edwards said: "The Fire Authority has a good reputation as an efficient and effective value-for-money organisation and our limited use of external consultancy support on a very limited basis is evidence of this."

Offender list on the increase

The number of people added to the sex offender list in Worcestershire, Shropshire and Herefordshire almost doubled in the last year.

Courts across the area covered by West Mercia Police imposed 77 Sexual Offence Prevention Orders (SOPOs) over the 12 months leading up to March 31 - up from 41 the year before. The figures are revealed in the annual report of West Mercia Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

The report details how the police work with other criminal justice agencies to protect the public from known offenders, such as the 792 registered sex offenders in the area - as of March 31 - 249 violent offenders and 10 other criminals labelled as "dangerous".

Detective Superintendent Martin Lakeman, head of public protection for West Mercia Police, said: "Over the past 12 months agencies have worked effectively together to manage those that pose the greatest risk."

Museum fun is out of this world



Jan Edgar with her grandchildren Ben Venskus, aged seven, and Millie Edgar, 10 at the Red House Glass Cone

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thechronicle

£1 deal secures the future of light festival

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

A popular waterways festival in Brierley Hill has been saved after an events company offered a £1 fee to take it on.

Staffordshire-based CCEM has struck a deal with Dudley Council to buy the rights to host the annual Festival of Water and Light at the Waterfront.

The event attracts more than 12,000 people every year.

Boating enthusiasts were left disappointed when this year's event was cancelled last month due to funding difficulties – but CCEM, based in Tamworth, has agreed to take on full responsibility for all future events.

Council leader Les Jones due to formally sign off the agreement on Tuesday – and he has welcomed the deal as "good news" for the popular event.

"The problem was, when times are tough like they are now, sponsorship for events like this is more difficult to come by," he said. "This meant the council had to make up the difference – and in the current climate that is unsustainable.

"So I took the decision to cancel this year's event.

Fantastic

"Fortunately, CCEM are willing to take it on themselves and although it's too late for this year it can now continue next year, which is fantastic.

He said an Asset Purchase Agreement was now being drawn up with CCEM, which has collaborated with the council to hold the event for the past four years, with a nominal payment of £1 to the council.

Boating enthusiast Paddy Grice, who helped organise a last-minute replacement festival when this year's was cancelled, also welcomed the news. "I am very glad that this event will be able to go forward – the reason we staged the event was to keep the date in the diary and show there is still interest there," he said.

"CCEM have done wonderfully in previous years and I'm confident we are in safe hands for future events."

Pensioner's peak challenge



Allen Birch, aged 91, and friend Andrea Clarke, both of Bewdley, with Help For Heroes county co-ordinator Ian Baldry

Sprightly pensioner Allen Birch has handed over more than £3,000 to armed forces charity Help for Heroes after conquering Snowdon.

The 91-year-old great-grandfather, a former soldier in the Royal Engineers, was congratulated on his "tremendous effort".

It is the fourth time Mr Birch, of Wribbenhall, Bewdley, has tackled the 3,560ft mountain since his 86th birthday.

Previous outings have raised thousands for Bewdley Scouts, the town's

Methodist Church and Kidderminster Hospital. This time he generated £3,320 in sponsorship and is planning his next climb in 2012, which will be in aid of the Midlands Air Ambulance.

Mr Birch said: "I think it is a really important charity." He served during the Second World War in Hamburg and Egypt, building bridges and clearing mines.

Ian Baldry, Worcestershire county co-ordinator for the charity, visited Mr Birch's home to collect the cheque and thank him.

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Savers turning to building societies

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

People in the West Midlands are turning to building societies to look after their savings as the ongoing financial crisis continues to bite hard.

People choosing to place their savings in building societies rose at the start of the cash crisis as confidence in banks plummeted.

And bosses from the region's leading societies said it was a trend which had continued as savers continued to deposit large sums and new members open accounts.

Bosses from the Tipton and Coseley Building Society said residents had placed around £4.5 million savings with them in August alone - compared with £1.3m at the same time last year. Officials said the sum was close to the record amount residents saved with the society in July 2010 of £5.9m.

Building society chief executive Chris Martin said: "The £4.5m amount is the total figure after withdrawals and other transactions have been carried out. It shows people have faith in building societies as a safe pair of hands for their money. The point is that from the beginning the money does not belong to the society but its members."

Security

"The main priority is to protect that money and ensure it is looked after on behalf of members. It is about providing security at a challenging time."

Savings in Dudley Building Society rose by more than £7 million over the last year. At this stage in 2010, there was £284,089,000 saved in the building society, and this has increased to £291,340,000.

Chief executive Geoff Caves said the firm had not actively been promoting any offers but said the increase was "very positive". He said: "People want to save when there's a downturn because they want to be prepared for the impact it could have on them."

Bosses from the West Bromwich said they were unable to provide figures for the last few months as a comparison as they were in a closed period ahead of its half-year results.

But they said 29,500 new savers had joined the society during the last financial year placing the total membership at nearly 540,000.

Divisional director for the society Stephen Leonard said: "Our savings products have appeared in the best buy tables more than 900 times this year so far, which helps members during a time of sustained economic difficulty."

Louise Holmes, spokeswoman for financial information company MoneyFacts, said: "In the savings account market, building societies offer some of the more competitive rates compared to the banks."

Walk is just the ticket



Bus driver Dave Gerrard and Dudley Group of Hospitals fundraiser Karen Phillips celebrate £1,250 being raised

Bus drivers have handed over £1,250 to a Dudley hospital. The cash was raised by walking one of their usual routes.

The colleagues, joined by family and friends, traced the eight-mile 246 bus route from Dudley bus station to Stourbridge town centre to help raise money for the children's unit at Russells Hall Hospital.

It was organised by driver Dave Gerrard, aged 67, who is based at Pensnett depot and persuaded his National Express colleagues to get involved.

Mr Gerrard, who lives in Amblecote and drives on a number of routes around Dudley, gave a cheque to staff from the unit when they visited the garage.

He said: "We're really pleased with how much we have raised and we are already planning to do it again next year."

They managed to complete the walk in just over two hours. The money raised will help pay for overnight beds needed for parents to stay with their children when they are poorly.

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I visited Netherton Park Children's Centre to meet with principal Helen Ruffles and I was hugely impressed with the facilities and the enthusiasm and dedication of the staff. The centre really is helping to give a great start in life to so many local children.

During my travels I also visited Janan Meat, Kingswinford where I was interested to learn about the rapid growth in un-stunned ritual slaughter in UK abattoirs. Janan pre-stun their animals but there is now a great deal of un-stunned, ritually slaughtered meat in our food chain.

I believe consumers should be informed about the method of slaughter used so they can make an informed choice about the kind of meat they wish to buy and consume.

I was pleased to receive a 50-strong group from Dudley in Parliament. The group travelled to Parliament by coach from Kingswinford Conservative Club and arrived in time to watch Prime Minister's Questions in a Parliamentary committee room.

Following PMQs I joined the group for a wide ranging question and answer session before we were joined by Nick Herbert MP, Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice.

The group had the chance to hear from and question a leading minister about his wide-ranging brief before I led a tour of Parliament including historic Westminster Hall.

Tickets

The afternoon was completed by tickets for the public galleries to observe the chambers of both the House of Commons and House of Lords at work.

For details of our events visit www.dudleyconservatives.com/events or, for information on visiting Parliament, see www.dudleyconservatives.com/parliament.

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I held busy constituency

advice surgeries on Friday

evening and Saturday

morning. Please contact me

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On 7 November I met –

with Parliamentary col-

leagues from our borough – another group of students from King Edward VI Sixth Form College, Stourbridge in the Commons.

There was also a meeting with Geoff Bull, Managing Director of Generic Punching Systems Limited, Netherton.

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Chris Kelly can be contacted on 01384 211 041 or via office@chriskellymp.com.

You can also read the latest news and views at www.chriskellymp.com

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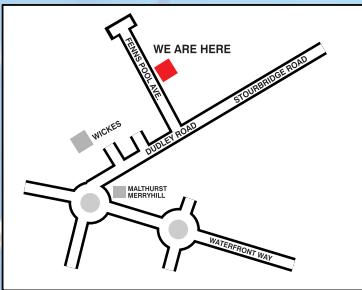


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1700 High Gloss White Panel **£47.23**

1700 High Gloss End Panel **£20.65**

700mm High Gloss End
Panel **£20.65**

450mm Mirror Unit **£62.14**

650mm High Gloss Basin
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650mm Basin **£30.08**

650mm Mirror Unit **£80.71**

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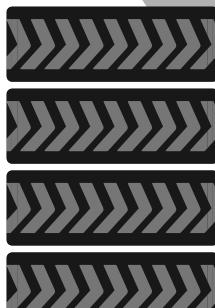
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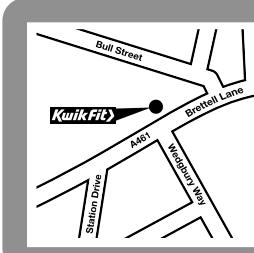


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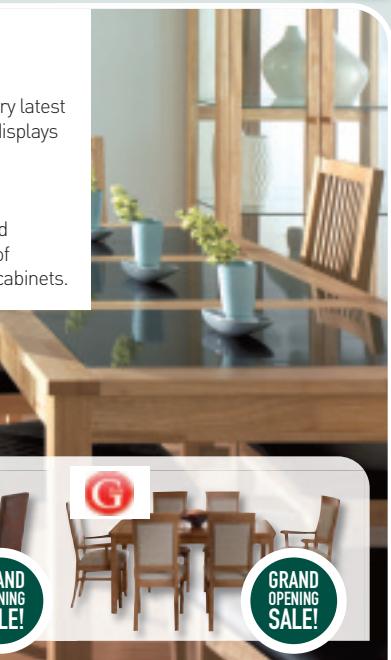
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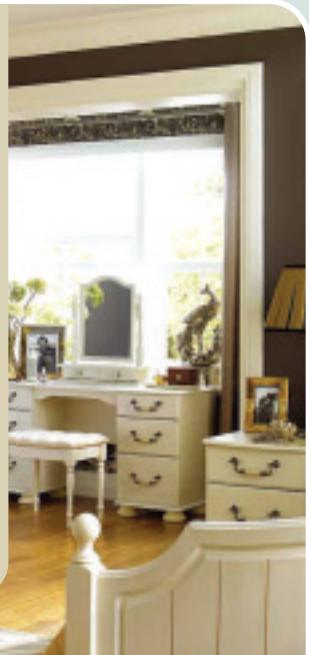
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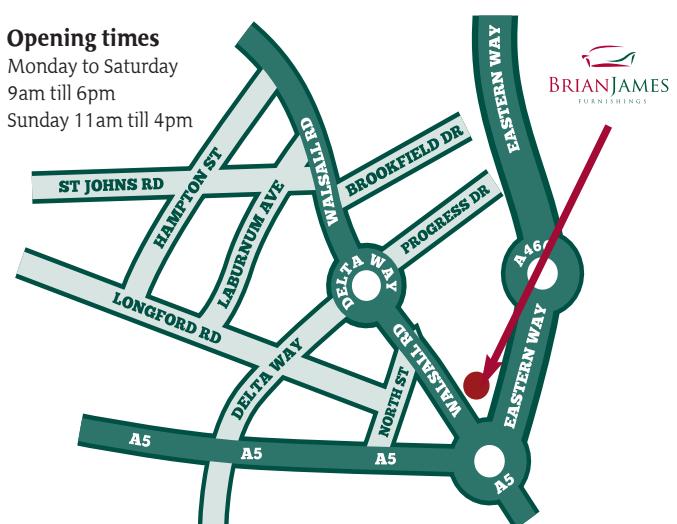
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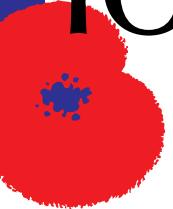
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Monday to Saturday
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lest we forget



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British Legion
48 Pall Mall,
London
SW1Y 5JY.
Telephone
020 7973 7200

Television personality Gethin Jones launched The Royal British Legion's 2011 Poppy Appeal on Thursday 27th October as the UK's leading Armed Forces charity announced a £40 million fundraising goal in its most ambitious campaign ever.

To mark its 90th anniversary year, the Legion launched its Poppy Appeal under the slogan "shoulder to shoulder with all who serve." The theme is backed by an online campaign and a chart-destined official single recorded by Robin Gibb and The Soldiers.

Holding Out For A Hero presenter Gethin Jones said: "I'm honoured to be launching the Poppy Appeal. I've experienced first-hand what life is like for our brave Service men and women on operations and how much the British public's support means to them.

"They risk so much for us every single day. I ask everyone to throw their support behind the Appeal and to wear their poppy with pride."

The Poppy Appeal raises funds needed to support those currently serving in Afghanistan, veterans of past conflict and their families.

The Legion unveiled a major social media campaign (shouldertosoulder.org.uk) to capture public support and encouragement for British Armed Forces. Members of the public are encouraged to pin a poppy to an online photograph, add a message of support, and place it alongside thousands of others on an interactive wall.

"Of course, everyone who wears the paper poppy is also standing shoulder to shoulder," said Legion Director of Fundraising Russell Thompson OBE. "It doesn't really matter whether you wear your poppy on the street or online - just so long as you wear your poppy with pride."

The Royal British Legion: The Royal British Legion stands shoulder to shoulder with all who serve. It is the nation's leading Armed Forces charity providing care and support to all members of the British Armed Forces past and present and their families. It is also the national Custodian of Remembrance and safeguards the Military Covenant between the nation and its Armed Forces. It is best known for the annual Poppy Appeal and its emblem, the red poppy. www.royallegion.org.uk

Each year the nation expresses its unequivocal support for The Royal British Legion's charity work through the Poppy Appeal, emphasising the need to help the Afghan generation of the Armed Forces and their families - today and for the rest of their lives.

The annual Poppy Appeal is the Legion's major fundraising campaign and their aim this year is to surpass last year's total and raise £40 million. This will allow the Legion to continue the work that means so much to the thousands of serving and ex-Service people and their families, who approach the charity every year for help. They reached their target of £36 million for 2010.

The Legion helps people of all ages, providing financial, social and emotional help to all those who have been affected by conflict. Increasingly they see younger people coming to them for help. Beneficiaries range from children to widows, from single mothers to pensioners, in fact anyone who finds themselves in need of help. Some 9.5 million people are eligible to approach us for support.

The Poppy Appeal distributes around 45 million poppies, 100,000 wreaths and sprays and 750,000 Little Remembrance Crosses. These items are made at the Legion's Poppy Factory in Richmond, Surrey.

There are many ways to support The Poppy Appeal either individually or as a company. And now you can show your support digitally - by email, on your mobile and on Facebook.

Shop at The Poppy Shop

Buy official Royal British Legion merchandise online at our Poppy Shop. Visit www.poppyshop.org.uk now!

Buy a poppy online We have lapel poppies, little remembrance crosses, silk poppies etc available online for the cost of a donation plus postage and packaging.

Donate via your mobile Text the word POPPY to 70090 - to make a donation to The Royal British Legion.

(Texts cost £5.00 plus your standard network message charge.) At least £4.00* goes directly to the Legion.

* Service provided by The Royal British Legion. Customer Service number is 0844 991 0078. By using this service you agree that we may contact you for future campaigns, unless you send STOP to 70090.

If ye break faith
with us who die,
we shall not
sleep, though
poppies grow in
Flanders fields

Colonel John McCrae

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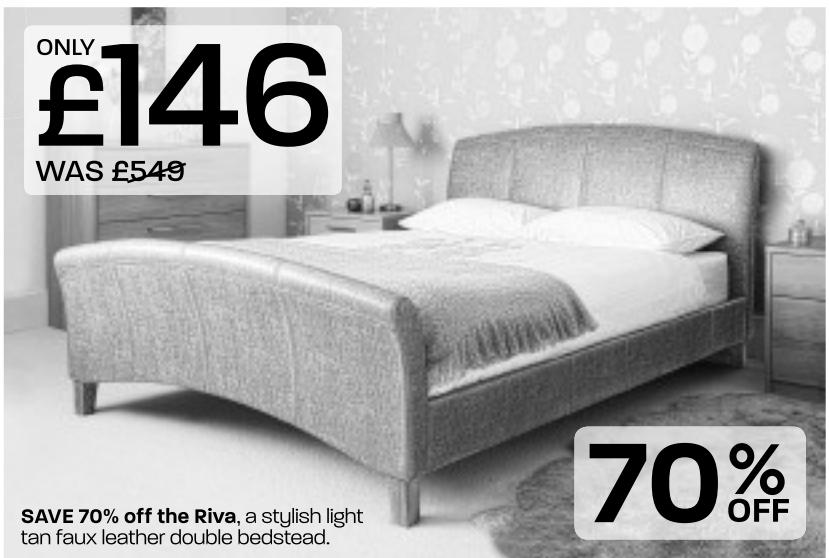


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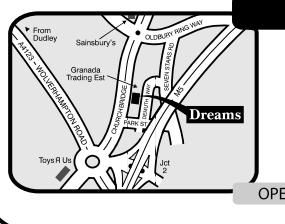


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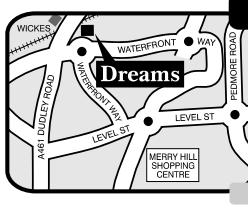
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SCHEME 1

This scheme is aimed at ordinary working people who are outside the benefit system and is not a means tested grant. The price you pay is based on property type and represents a real saving of at least 60% on the cost of cavity wall insulation. Prices quoted below are what you actually pay. We do all the necessary paperwork and claim the excess amount from the utility companies direct leaving you with a warm house at a fraction of the normal cost, which is £500 - £700 per property.

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BENEFIT HOLDERS SCHEME 2 - FREE

If you or your partner are in receipt of a qualifying benefit then you will receive loft or cavity wall insulation totally free of charge!

Applicable benefits include - Income support, Pension Credit, Council Tax Benefit, IBJSA, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, ESA, Working Tax and Child Tax Credit*

* Benefit bases with income less than £16,190

SCHEME 3 - OVER 70'S FREE

If you or anyone permanently living in your house is over 70 years of age then you will receive cavity wall insulation totally free of charge. If your loft insulation is below 60mm in depth then this could also be topped up free as well. This is not means tested in any way shape or form!!!

Need your loft insulating but full of storage?

We now offer a loft clearance service from as little as £25

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Saturday TV



Choice



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

BBC1, 9.15pm

The dependable Huw Edwards presents coverage of the annual event from the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen and other members of the royal family, and it's impossible not to be moved by an event that honours the people who have preserved our way of life. A who's who of big names provide the entertainment, with Cliff Richard, Katherine Jenkins and Joe McElderry performing alongside the Armed Forces of the Household Division, and the bands of HM Royal Marines, the Royal Air Force and the Brigade of Gurkhas.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** Bargain Hunt. Famous Fixies. (F) **10.45** Lord Mayor's Show 2011. **11.10** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **11.15** Formula 1: The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix — Qualifying. Live coverage from the Yas Marina Circuit (Starttime 10pm). **2.30** Live Boxing: The British Championships. **6.00** Remembrance Week. **6.05** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **6.25** The Impression Show with Cuthlaw and Stevenson. (F) **6.30** Tonight at the Night.

6.30 Saturday Come Dancin'

The nine remaining couples perform ballroom or Latin routines.

6.30 Electricity

Morgan joins forces with enigmatic wizard Alctor to reveal Merlin's secret to the world.

6.30 The National Lottery: Saturday Night Draw.

Jenni Falconer announces the all-important numbers.

6.30 The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance.

Coverage of the annual event paying tribute to the victims of war and conflict, held at the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen.

6.30 BBC News: Weather: National Lottery Update.

6.30 FILM Signs.

(2002) M

Sci-Fi thriller, starring

Sam Rockwell, Joaquin Phoenix.

7.00 Weatherwatch. **7.35** Sign Zone. Fred: on Mon. (F) **7.35** BBC News. **8.00** Close.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **11.30** Football Focus. **11.45** The Sky at Night. (F) **12.15** 5' Cord. (F) **12.45** Film: Careless. (1988) **2.05** Film: Singin' in the Rain (1952) Musical comedy, starring Gene Kelly. **3.15** Escape to the Country. (F) **4.30** Great British Food Festival. (F) **5.30** Flight It! (F)

6.30 Devil's Army: The

platoon stages a

surprise. (F)

6.30 Don't Be a Rude

Guest: James Holland presents an analysis of the 1943 air attack by the RAF on German dams and examines whether the true impact has been underestimated. (F)

6.30 Come Fly with Me (The Story of Paul Auster).

How Pan American World Airways kick-started the jet age.

6.30 FILM With Sandi Toksvig, Al Murray and Dame O'Brien. (F)

6.30 FILM George Harrison — Living in the Material World.

Part one of two. Martin Scorsese documentary tracing Harrison's early life in Liverpool.

Beatlemania, adored and his fascination with Indian culture, both musical and spiritual. Conclude tomorrow.

11.00 Sing a Song.

Memorable covers of classic songs by the group. (F)

11.30 Later with JoJo Holland. (F) **12.30** BBC News. **3.00** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.15** CITV. **7.25** Coronation Street. **11.45** This Morning. Saturday. **12.05** Film: Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home. (1995) Family adventure, starring Jason James Richter. **2.00** Film: Stop Or My Mom Will Shoot. (1992) Comedy, starring Sylvester Stallone. **4.30** Regional Programmes. **4.50** ITV: News: Weather. **6.05** Live International Football: England v Spain (Kids). **8.15pm**.

7.15 New Year's Eve

Presented by Russell Howard performing a humorous dance routine.

7.30 Hard Day's TV

Review. A review of the week's small-screen highlights.

8.15 The X Factor: Demot

O'Leary hosts the sixth live studio round as the remaining acts battle to get one step closer to that life-changing recording contract. The results can be seen tomorrow at 8pm.

10.30 Plus Edison's Life

Starter Pack: *Grease*. The former England footballer opens up about the battles he has faced in his private life, including drug addiction and excessive drinking, and looks back on his heyday as a player.

10.45 ITV: News: Weather.

11.00 International Football Highlights.

11.30 The Cube. (F) **1.00** The Zone. (ITV News: Headlines. **3.00** Kick. (F) **4.00** ITV: Nightbeat. **5.30** ITV: Morning News.

Channel 4

6.05 The Hobbit. (F) **6.30** The Fiifi Show. (F) **6.35** British Polytechnic Grand Final 2011. **7.00** Extreme Sailing Series. **7.30** Channel 4 Records — Oscar Pictures: 'Black Panther'. The Pandymia gold medallist explains his motivations. (F) **7.35** The Morning Line. **8.30** T4: Made in Chelsea. **9.00** T4: Inside GBTV: From Bedroom to Boardroom. **11.25** T4: TV: Favourites: Show Patrol. (F) **11.30** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (F) **12.35** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (F) **12.55** The Simpsons. (F) **1.00** Channel 4 Factual. **3.35** Come Dine with Me. (F) **4.35** Come Dine with Me. (F) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (F)

6.35 Devil's Army: The

platoon stages a

surprise. (F)

6.45 FILM Devil's Army:

Demolition. (F) O'Leary hosts the sixth live studio round as the remaining acts battle to get one step closer to that life-changing recording contract. The results can be seen tomorrow at 8pm.

7.15 FILM Edison's Life

Starter Pack: *Grease*. The former England footballer opens up about the battles he has faced in his private life, including drug addiction and excessive drinking, and looks back on his heyday as a player.

7.30 FILM Tally Ho.

(2008) A teenager moves to a small town with her father, where she embarks on a dangerous romance with a mysterious vampire. Fantasy, starring Kristen Stewart. **8.15** FILM Let the Right One In. (2008) (Premiere) Horror, starring Kate Hennig.

9.00 FILM Third.

(2008) (Premiere) Horror, starring Kang-Ho Song. **3.35** The Island. (F) **4.35** Shaped. (F) **4.45** Amadeus. (F) **5.35** Steel. Elsewhere. (F) **5.50** Countdown. (F) **6.35** The Trade People. (F)

Channel 5

6.00 Mitchell. **6.30** Arthur Christmas: Movie Special. **10.30** How Not to Decorate. (F) **11.00** The Goggle Show. (F) **11.15** Big Brother: The Final. (F) **1.00** Film: Every Time We Say Goodbye. (1988) Second World War romantic drama, starring Tom Hanks. **3.30** Film: Tinker Bell and the Lost Treasure. (2008) (Premiere) Animated adventure, with the voice of Kate Winslet. **5.15** Film: Aladdin (1992) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Eddie Murphy.

6.30 FILM Love Craft: Clash

Reindeer (2001) The gung-ho heroine battles a secret society as she searches for a legendary artefact that grants control over time.

Action adventure, starring Angelina Jolie and Daniel Craig. Includes 5 News: Upfront.

7.00 FILM The Weekend.

Two actors appear to have died of an overdose. (F)

7.30 FILM International Boxing: Tyson Fury v Nelson Fajardo.

Coverage of the bout for the Commonwealth Heavyweight title at EventCity in Manchester.

11.15 UFC 132: Action from

Las Vegas, Nevada.

10.15 SuperCinema: 3.35 Great

Artists. (F) **3.35** Divine Design. (F) **4.35** Rough Guide to Luxury Destinations. (F) **5.00** Hanab. Hopkins. **5.30** The Mitchell Show. **5.35** Thomas & Friends. **6.35** Racing the Racing Car. (F)

Digital

ITV2
0.25 The Only Way Is Essex 5.15 Film: Hard and Lydia (2007) Romantic comedy, starring Hugo Grant and Drew Barrymore. **7.15** Celebrity Crimewatch. **8.15** Crimewatch. **9.05** Home from Hell. **9.35** The Xtra Factor. **10.15** Celebrity At Home: In a Celebrity Special. **11.00** Peter Andre: My Life.

ITV4
0.00 Film: Spangled Sparkle (1988) (Digital). **0.30** Agatha Christie: Mystery, starring Anthony Andrews. **6.00** Agatha Christie: Maple 8.00 Doomsday. **9.00** Foyle's War. **11.15** Hunter in Siberia.

ITV5
0.00 Film: Odysseus (1988) 4.50 Film: The Far Country (1954) Western, starring James Stewart. **6.15** Film: Every Man's Day. **8.15** Film: Jack and the Beanstalk (1971) (Digital). **9.00** Film: The War of the Worlds (1953) (Digital). **10.00** Film: The War of the Worlds (1953) (Digital).

BBC THREE
2.00 Hot Like Us. 8.00 Top Gear. 9.00 Russell Howard: Good News Extra. 9.45 Film: King Arthur (2004). 11.00 Family Guy.

BBC FOUR

2.00 The Winter of Weeks. 8.00 Wellington Bomber. 9.00 Wallander: The Pyramid. **10.00** The Step. **11.15** The Secret Life of Ice.

IT
0.55 Match in Chelsea. **5.00** Sonics. **6.00** The Big Bang Theory. **7.00** Happy Birthday. **9.00** How I Met Your Mother. **9.00** The Big Bang Theory. **9.00** Film: Meet the Spartans (2008). **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. **11.15** Sonics.

ITV1
3.30 The Position Adventure (1972). **5.25** Black Tie. House (1972) British comedy, starring GH Jones. **7.00** The Other Child (1986). **8.00** Sex and the City (2008). **11.45** Isolation (2005).

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Choice

BBC1

BBC2

ITV1

Channel 4

Channel 5

Digital



GARROWS LAW

BBC1, 9pm

Oscar Wilde once said that the law was an ass, but then, Oscar had a very one-track mind. As far as programme-makers are concerned, the law is a rich seam to be mined for dramatic gold, and they have done so brilliantly with this period drama, which is making a very welcome return. William Garrow is becoming one of TV's most loved legal eagles, and this series, charting his attempt to change the world through his work as a barrister, is a great one to a real-life pioneer. In this opener, Garrow returns to the Bailey making his reputation to defend James Hadfield, who is on trial for high treason for attempting to assassinate King George III.

6.00 Breakfast. **6.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **6.25** Pantomime Sunday: The Cenotaph: Weather for the Week Ahead. **6.35** Formula 1: The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix - Live. The 18th round of the season (Startime: 10pm). **6.35** The Politic Show. **6.45** Frozen Planet. (F) **6.55** Points of View. **7.25** Songs of Praise.

6.00 BBC1 House: Regional News. (Weekend).

6.25 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison visit the Derwent Valley in Derbyshire.

7.25 Sunday Come Dine Day. The result is announced, and renowned violinist Andre Rieu performs.

7.30 Antiques Roadshow. From the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

7.45 Garrow's Law. New series. The barrister defending a man accused of trying to assassinate the king.

10.00 BBC1 House: Regional News. (Weekend).

10.25 House in a Hotbox. House for You. Extended edition, with Fionn Conroy and Andy Hamilton.

11.00 Ashes to Ashes. (F)

11.45 FREE! Entertainment. (2008) Premier. Comedy, starring Jennifer Aniston and Steve Zahn.

1.30 Weatherwatch. **1.35** Sign Zone. Film. 2011 with Claudia Winkleman. (F) **1.45** The Queen's Pajamas. (F) **2.00** Holly City. (F) **2.30** BBC News. **3.00** Close.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **9.00** Something for the Weekend. **11.30** Great British Food Revival. (F) **12.30** Film: On Moonlight Bay. (1981) Romantic musical comedy, starring Deric Day. **2.05** EastEnders. **4.00** Rugby League. **5.00** Peter Jones: How We Make Our Millions. (F)

6.00 Rousham House: Sunday: The Country Highways. Presented by David Dimbleby and Sophie Raworth.

7.00 Top Gear. Michael Sheen is the Star in a Reconcilably Pried Car. (F)

7.30 House in a Hotbox. (Weekend). The construction of a jumbo jet.

7.45 Antoin George Mandeville - Living in the Eternal World. Part two of two. Martin Garscadden documentary-travelling Harrison's post-Beatles days, including his solo career and work with the Traveling Wilburys, and his move into film production.

10.00 The X Factor. The results, with performances by Lady GaGa and One Direction.

10.30 Fun in Celebrity Chat. One of several new series. Ant and Dec present as a fresh batch of famous faces wave goodbye to their lives of luxury and spend three weeks camping in the Australian jungle.

10.45 ITV1 House. (Weekend). **11.45** FA Cup Highlights. Action from the first-round tie.

11.55 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With Greg Davies, Frankie Boyle, Amy Chilcott, Timothy Spall and Ian H. Watkins. (F)

1.25 Film: Romance and Cigarettes. (2008) Musical drama, starring James Gandolfini. **2.00** ITV Nightbeat. **2.30** ITV Morning News.

6.00 CITV. Mini CITV. **7.15** CITV. **9.25** Monk. (F) **9.30** Finger Tips. **10.35** Film: The Adventures of Ber Bobble. (2008) Children's musical animation, with the voice of Nick Cannon. **11.00** ITV1 News. Weather. **11.30** FA Cup. Football. FC Halifax Town v Charlton Athletic. (Kick-off 12.30pm). **3.00** The X Factor. (F) **4.30** Downing Abbey. (F)

6.00 Regional Pro grammes. **6.15** ITV House. (Weekend).

6.30 Harry Hill's TV Bites. A review of the week's small-screen highlights.

7.00 The Circle. A primary school teacher and a marketing manager take part.

7.30 The X Factor. The results, with performances by Lady GaGa and One Direction.

8.00 Fun in Celebrity Chat. One of several new series. Ant and Dec present as a fresh batch of famous faces wave goodbye to their lives of luxury and spend three weeks camping in the Australian jungle.

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Kate's festive folk gig at Civic

ONE of the brightest stars of the English contemporary folk scene, Kate Rusby, will be performing songs from her second album of Yorkshire-inspired songs and Christmas carols at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Thursday, December 15.

She will be joined by her band and a brass quintet for her festive concert, drawing upon the new album *While Mortals Sleep*, interpreting traditional songs from her native county and performing self-penned material.

The new band will include Damien O'Kane on guitar and banjo, Duncan Lyall on double bass, Edmund Boyle guitar and bouzouki, and Julian Sutton on melodeon. Tickets cost £20 (£12 under-16s). See www.wolvescivic.co.uk or call the box office on 0870 320 7000.

THE UK's number one selling classical vocal group, Mediaeval Baebes, has announced a nine-date tour of England in December, which will include a show at Birmingham Cathedral on Tuesday, December 20.

This outing will continue the tradition of the Mediaeval Baebes' annual Christmas tour. As a festive season gift to fans, the singers will be releasing the first single from their forthcoming album *The Huntress, Veni Veni Bella* as a free download with accompanying video in December.

Originally formed in 1996, the Mediaeval Baebes line up consists of musical director Katharine Blake alongside Sutton Coldfield woman Esther Dee, Emily Alice Ovenden, Bev Lee Harling, Sarah Kayte Foster, Clare Edmondson and Tanya Jackson. See www.mediaevalbaebes.com for tickets, from £12.50 to £18.50.



Folk singer Kate Rusby

TEN years on from his Pop Idol triumph, Will Young is a multi-platinum selling singer and actor and has released his fifth studio album *Echoes*, including the hit *Jealousy* and new single *Come On*.

He will be in concert at Birmingham's O2 Academy on Sunday, November 20, with support from up-and-coming new band Lawson. See www.02academybirmingham.co.uk.

Other gigs to look out for include indie rockers The Pigeon Detectives at the O2 Academy 2 on Tuesday; quirky dub from Dreadzone at the Hare and Hounds (07531 723043) in Kings Heath on Thursday, November 17; and 2 Tone veterans The Beat and The Selector urging folks to *Twist and Crawl* at Birmingham Town Hall (0121 780 3333) on November 18.

Official return of the 'Great Detective'

SIR Arthur Conan Doyle's great detective, Sherlock Holmes, is back in the first novel actually commissioned by the author's estate, *The House of Silk* (hardback, Orion, £18.99) by Anthony Horowitz.

Of course, Holmes is a master of the comeback. Conan Doyle apparently first killed him off when Holmes and his nemesis the criminal mastermind Professor Moriarty, plunged into the Reichenbach Falls in *The Final Solution*, first published in the Strand Magazine in 1893 and later included in *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*. However, so great was the outcry that the Scottish writer brought him back for another series of adventures, and Holmes was eventually to die in retirement on the South Downs having finally found time for his hobby of beekeeping.

The final collection of Holmes stories, *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*, was published in 1927, three years before the author's death.

There have, of course, been lots of stories in print and on screen involving Holmes and his friend and biographer Dr John Watson since then, but this is the first work to be added to the official canon by Conan Doyle's estate. It comes at a time when the iconic detective has never been more popular, the two most recent manifestations of his enduring appeal being Guy Ritchie's actionman movie version and Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss' more cerebral and stylish 21st century updating in a BBC TV drama.

But the elementary question remains, is it any good? The answer is an emphatic yes. The estate chose wisely in Horowitz who, though he is best known as a children's author for his hugely successful *Alex Rider* adventures, was the screenwriter who adapted Agatha Christie's fastidious Belgian detective Hercule Poirot to television.

The House of Silk is full of references that Holmes aficionados will recognise and enjoy but it is also a cracking crime mystery in its own right.

The set-up is the discovery of a manuscript, 100 years after the death of Holmes, which is Watson's account of a case so controversial and shocking that it could not be published.

So the game is afoot, again. An apparently straightforward case of an Irish-American ruffian seeking revenge on a London art dealer, because he was named alongside the millionaire who put trigger-happy Pinkerton agents on his gang's trail, proves to be more complex. When one of Holmes' Baker Street irregulars, the street urchins who act as his eyes and ears in the criminal underworld, is brutally murdered Holmes vows to bring the mysterious House of Silk to justice.

Horowitz suggests Conan Doyle's style without copying it (that could risk parody) and his descriptions are sometimes more detailed than those that Conan Doyle would give. He also omits the original author's more archaic turns of phrase. Often Conan Doyle's stories feature long periods of dialogue that read like a script whereas Horowitz creates a richly atmospheric London of fog, poverty and lurking evil.

It is easy to deduce which book crime fiction fans should be reading this winter.

Anthony Horowitz: the author who adapted

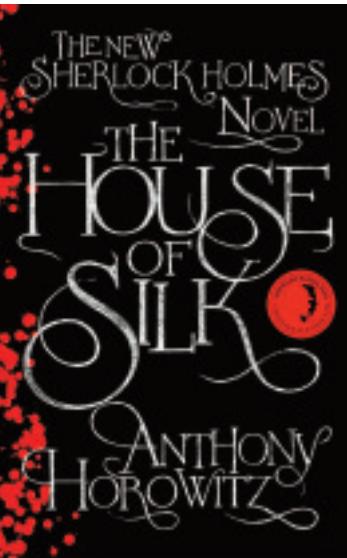
Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot for television has now created a new adventure for Sherlock Holmes

TV drama.

Leon Burakowski

Sherlock Holmes returns in *The House of Silk*, the first Holmes novel approved by the estate of Sir

Arthur Conan Doyle



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75 BATH STREET £199,950
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- SEDGLEY OFFICE



8 BIRKDALE DRIVE O/A £185,000
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- Shower room
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



21 FIR TREE DRIVE £167,500
SEDGLEY

- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Dining kitchen, conservatory
- Well maintained & improved
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



10 FERNDOWN AVENUE O/A £165,000
SEDGLEY

- Extended semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Extended dining room
- Breakfast kitchen
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



26 FIR TREE DRIVE £159,950
SEDGLEY

- Beautifully presented semi detached house
- Extended & improved with three bedrooms
- Ensuite bathroom, utility area
- Central heating & double glazing
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



589 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD £157,950
COSELEY

- Spacious semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- En suite shower room
- Larger than average plot
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



24 LINFIELD GARDENS £154,950
SEDGLEY

- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Well maintained & improved
- L' shaped living room
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



142 EVE LANE £149,950
UPPER GORNAL

- Well maintained & improved semi detached
- Three bedrooms, large conservatory
- Refitted kitchen & bathroom
- Ample off street parking
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



11 TURLS HILL ROAD O/A £145,000
SEDGLEY

- Three reception rooms
- Three bedrooms
- Garage at rear
- Well maintained & presented
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



13 GUYS LANE O/A £145,000
LOWER GORNAL

- Semi detached three bedroom house
- Extended at rear
- Separate lounge & dining room
- Spacious bathroom
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



36 TIPTON STREET £144,950
SEDGLEY

- Modern semi detached with three bedrooms
- Well maintained & improved
- Refitted kitchen & bathroom
- Conservatory, detached garage at rear
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



27 TURLS HILL ROAD £142,000
SEDGLEY

- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- In need of updating works
- Large level rear garden
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



74 MOUNT ROAD £139,950
LANESFIELD

- Improved semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Spacious bathroom
- High quality fitted kitchen
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



281 WRENS NEST ROAD £134,950
WOODSETTON

- Spacious modern three storey house
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted shower room
- Ample off street parking
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



38 TIPTON STREET O/A £125,000
SEDGLEY

- Modern semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted shower room
- Ample off street parking
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



55 ELLOWES ROAD £124,950
LOWER GORNAL

- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Well maintained & improved
- Conservatory, utility room
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



31 ABBEY STREET £119,950
LOWER GORNAL

- Mid terrace house
- Three bedrooms
- Deceptively spacious
- Separate lounge & dining room
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



227 WRENS NEST ROAD £119,950
DUDLEY

- Modern mid terraced house
- Three bedrooms
- Ideal for first time buyer/investor
- Allocated parking space
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



30 TUDOR VALE £109,995
UPPER GORNAL

- Modern end terraced house
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Car parking space
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



20 TEMPLE STREET £104,950
LOWER GORNAL

- Mid terraced house
- Full modernised
- Two bedrooms
- Pleasant rear views
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



51 NORTH ONE MEWS £102,500
SEDGLEY

- Modern ground floor flat
- One bedroom
- Spacious accommodation
- Communal gardens, allocated car parking
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



12 HOLLY ROAD £99,950
DUDLEY

- Modernised & improved
- Two bedrooms
- Conservatory, shower room
- Ample off street parking
- DUDLEY OFFICE



14 WEALDSTONE DRIVE £99,950
LOWER GORNAL

- Modern end town house
- Three bedrooms
- Part gas central heating
- Rear car parking
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



2 MAPLE GREEN £94,950
DUDLEY

- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Shower room & bathroom
- Part double glazing & gas central heating
- DUDLEY OFFICE



26 OAKWOOD CRESCENT £85,950
DUDLEY

- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- Convenient location
- Conservatory
- DUDLEY OFFICE



20 ZOAR STREET £74,950
LOWER GORNAL

- Spacious one bedroom flat
- Close to Gornal Village
- Good views at rear
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



51 BROAD STREET £69,950
COSELEY

- Ground floor maisonette
- Two bedrooms
- Well proportioned accommodation
- Well maintained communal gardens
- SEDGLEY OFFICE

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41 ST BRADES CLOSE** £595 pcm



**STOURBRIDGE
16 TREFOIL GARDENS** £540 pcm



**WORDSLY
30 SURREY DRIVE** £495 pcm



**CRADLEY HEATH
9 GREAT WESTERN DRIVE** £420 pcm



**DUDLEY
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ROTORY HOUSE** £88.80 - £114.05
per week.

Modern semi detached house ■ entrance lobby, through lounge/dining room ■ fitted kitchen with various appliances ■ 2 bedrooms, family bathroom with fitted suite inc. shower ■ garage, lawned rear garden, c/h, d/g

Ground floor apartment within a popular development close to Stourbridge Town ■ hall, lounge, kitchen with modern fitted units ■ two bedrooms, bathroom ■ gated entrance and parking area, d/g.

Modern mews town house ■ lounge with coal effect marble style fireplace ■ dining room and fitted kitchen ■ two bedrooms, house bathroom inc. shower ■ communal gardens, two parking spaces, c/h, part d/g

Ground floor apartment in a cul-de-sac position ■ lounge area, kitchen with fitted units ■ one double bedroom, bathroom ■ communal gardens ■ one allocated parking space, c/g, d/g.

Warden controlled housing for people of retirement age ■ single/double bedroom flats ■ Rental: £88.80 - £114.05 per week.

Andrew Grant



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12TH NOVEMBER 10AM TO 11AM**

THE BROADWAY, NORTON
A Three Bedroom Detached Residence
Situated In This Popular Location

Reception Hall, Sitting Room, Dining room, Conservatory, Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Landing, Three Bedrooms, House Bathroom, Garage, Rear Garden

Guide Price £219,950
Contact: Sadie Grant on 01384 370232



**NEW
PRICE**
MEDDINS LANE, KINVER
An Extended and Improved Semi
Detached Residence Situated In This
Sought After Village

Open Plan Reception Hall/Kitchen/Dining Room, Study, Shower Room, Sitting Room, Conservatory, Landing, Three Bedrooms, House Bathroom, Rear Garden
Guide Price £242,500
Contact: Leoni Ready on 01384 370232



NEW
REGENCY COURT
Reception Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen Diner, Master Bedroom With En-Suite, Bathroom, Two Further Bedrooms And Two Parking Spaces.
Guide Price: £169,950
Contact: Leoni Ready on 01384 370232



NEW
OAKLANDS, WOMBOURNE
A Modern Five Bedroom Detached Residence Situated In This Popular Location
Reception Hall, Fitted Cloakroom, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Open Plan Kitchen/Family Room, Utility, Five Bedrooms, Two En-Suites, House Bathroom, Double Garage and Garden.
Guide Price £455,000
Contact: Leoni Ready on 01384 370232



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SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED**

HUNTERS RIDE, KINGSWINFORD
An Immaculately Presented Detached Residence Situated In This Sought After Location
Reception Hall, Fitted Cloakroom, Three Receptions, Breakfast Kitchen/Family room, Utility, Five bedrooms, En-Suite, Dressing Room, House Bathroom, Detached Double Garage, Rear Garden
Offers Over £600,000
Contact: Leoni Ready on 01384 370232



NEW
CORBETT ROAD, BRIERLEY HILL
A Three Bedroom End Terrace Property With No Upward Chain.
Sitting Room, Kitchen, Downstairs W.C, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom and Rear Garden.
Guide Price £80,000
Contact: Leoni Ready on 01384 370232



NEW
CROWNOKES DRIVE, WORDSLY
A Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment In This Convenient Location
Communal Entrance Hall, Private Entrance Hall, Open Plan Living Area With Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom.
Guide Price £119,950
Contact: Leoni Ready on 01384 370232



BENT STREET, BRIERLEY HILL
A Well Presented Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Residence In This Convenient Location
Comprising- Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden And Driveway.
Guide Price £119,950
Contact: Leoni Ready on 01384 370232



**OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY,
12TH NOVEMBER 11.30AM TO 12.30PM**
HEMMINGS CLOSE, STOURBRIDGE
Hall, Fitted Cloakroom, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Landing, Three Bedrooms, House Bathroom, Garage and Garden.
Guide Price £244,995
Contact: Leoni Ready on 01384 370232



NEW
RICHARDSON DRIVE, WOLLASTON
A Well Maintained Three Bedroom Detached Residence Situated In This Popular Location
Porch, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Fitted Cloakroom, Landing, Three Bedrooms, Ensuite, House Bathroom, Garage, Rear Garden
Guide Price £207,000
Contact: Leoni Ready on 01384 370232



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<p>IBIS GARDENS KINGSWINFORD</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detached residence Three bedrooms, ensuite to master Spacious lounge plus conservatory <p>£199,950</p>	<p>ABBOTSFORD DRIVE RUSSELLS HALL ESTATE</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended dormer bungalow Granny annexe to side Four/five bedrooms <p>£230,000</p>	 <p>DUDLEY ROAD SELDLEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Period detached with study Three reception rooms plus kitchen Three bedrooms plus <p>Simply must be viewed!!</p> <p>Reduced to £219,950</p>
<p>BIRCH ROAD SELDLEY</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four bed semi-detached Lounge plus dining room Laundrette plus storage room <p>£135,000</p>	 <p>SANDYFIELDS ROAD SELDLEY</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended detached residence Three bedrooms two bathrooms Two reception rooms <p>£218,950</p>	 <p>QUENTIN DRIVE DUDLEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptionally stylish detached Three bedrooms plus bathroom Impressive lounge plus <p>dining room Delightful gardens generous off road parking VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED</p> <p>Reduced £199,950</p>
<p>ELLOWS ROAD LOWER GORNAL</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-detached on corner position Three bed two receptions Kitchen, laundrette, down stairs WC <p>£126,500</p>	 <p>ROCK STREET UPPER GORNAL</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well presented mid-terrace Two beds & two receptions Stylish kitchen <p>Upstairs shower room Convenient position VIEWING RECOMMENDED</p> <p>£122,500</p>	 <p>BRELADES CLOSE MILKING BANK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five bed detached Two reception rooms Two bathrooms Spacious dining kitchen <p>Central heating & double glazing Extremely popular location</p> <p>£179,950</p>
<p>RIPLEY GROVE UPPER GORNAL</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern four bed detached Impressive lounge Fully fitted dining kitchen <p>£210,000</p>	 <p>BROOK STREET GORNAL WOOD</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three bed end-terrace Living room & conservatory Office & garage <p>Down stairs WC Bathroom plus ensuite shower room Central heating & double glazing</p> <p>£134,995</p>	 <p>FAIRVIEW ROAD DUDLEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spacious semi-detached Three bedrooms Central heating & double glazing <p>Two reception rooms Modern kitchen plus laundrette INTERIOR VIEWING RECOMMENDED</p> <p>Offers Around £149,950</p>

<p>EVANS CLOSE FOXYARDS</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernised semi-detached Three bedrooms Lounge plus dining area <p>£129,995</p>	<p>ZOAR STREET LOWER GORNAL, DUDLEY</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A spacious mid-terrace character home Three bedrooms Lounge, dining <p>Reduced to £130,000</p>	 <p>ROSEWOOD ROAD WRENS NEST</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three bed semi-detached Central heating & double glazing <p>Off road parking Ideal first time buyer & investment</p> <p>£69,995</p>	<p>KINGS ROAD SELDLEY</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two bed mid-terrace Central heating & double glazing Two reception rooms Up stairs bathroom Extended kitchen <p>Upstairs bathroom Convenient location</p> <p>£99,995</p>	 <p>HIGGINS AVENUE COSELEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-detached kitchen corner position Three bedrooms Fitted dining <p>Central heating & double glazing</p> <p>£74,995</p>
 <p>IVY ROAD WRENS NEST</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three bedroom mid-terrace Lounge & dining kitchen Central heating & double glazing <p>£99,995</p>	 <p>MEADOW LANE COSELEY</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modernised kitchen semi-detached Two bedrooms Lounge & dining <p>Conservatory & downstairs WC</p> <p>£102,000</p>	<p>BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD DUDLEY</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three bed semi-detached Central heating & double glazing Two reception rooms Up stairs bathroom Bathroom plus wet room <p>Recently refurbished</p> <p>£119,995</p>	<p>GROSVENOR ROAD ETTINSHALL</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently refurbished semi-detached Upstairs bathroom and conservatory Three good sized bedrooms <p>Generous lounge plus conservatory Delightful gardens</p> <p>Reduced to £155,000</p>	 <p>BIRD STREET LOWER GORNAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern well maintained semi-detached Hall, lounge and dining room Conservatory Stylish kitchen <p>Three bedrooms and bathroom Downstairs WC Private gardens plus garage</p> <p>£145,000</p>
 <p>VICARAGE ROAD WEST WOODSETON</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional detached Two receptions plus in convenient location Kitchen Three bedrooms plus bathroom Pleasant gardens <p>£135,000</p>	 <p>THE VISTA SELDLEY</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-detached in popular location Spacious sun room Lounge plus breakfast <p>£116,950</p>	 <p>GOODRICH MEWS UPPER GORNAL</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern second floor apartment Two bedrooms Living room plus dining area <p>Fully fitted kitchen Parking for 2 vehicles</p> <p>VIEWING RECOMMENDED</p> <p>£106,000</p>	 <p>PRUDEN AVENUE LANEFIELD</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended semi-detached Two reception rooms plus kitchen Two bedrooms plus <p>Shower room Delightful gardens to front</p> <p>£119,950</p>	 <p>REGENT STREET WOODSETON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two bedroom second floor flat Two bedrooms and bathroom Generous lounge Fitted kitchen <p>VIEWING RECOMMENDED</p> <p>Reduced to £69,000</p>

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Connells

2 Erica Close Kidderminster	£132,500	Baldwin Road Kidderminster	£179,950	 REDUCED	 INSTRUCTION	 NEW DEVELOPMENT	 Shrubbery Gardens, Kidderminster is a development of eight beautifully designed four bedroom detached properties set within a private, gated close. Showhome available to view Friday to Monday 11:00am - 5:00pm LATE NIGHT VIEWING PLANNED FOR THE 17th NOVEMBER UNTIL 7:00pm First releases are; Plot 2 - Detached 2 storey home with double garage and parking - £274,950 Plot 4 - Detached 2 storey home with integral garage and parking - £249,950	Westley Court Cookley	£79,950	Les Street Kidderminster	£109,000	 INSTRUCTION	 FREE LEGAL FEES AVAILABLE	
FT 7 Silver Court Kidderminster	£54,950	Land Oak Court Kidderminster	£119,950	 FREE LEGAL FEES AVAILABLE	 FREE LEGAL FEES AVAILABLE	 FREE LEGAL FEES AVAILABLE	 FREE LEGAL FEES AVAILABLE	Turton Street Kidderminster	£129,950	Aggborough Crescent Kidderminster	£245,500 offers over	Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £87,500 for	Offmore Road Kidderminster	£99,950
Maisonette style flat being double glazed and having electric heating. Comprising; lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms both with en-suites.		Well presented two bedroom first floor apartment. Comprising; lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. Benefiting from being centrally heated and double glazed. Allocated parking to the rear.										18 HAWFORD AVENUE, KIDDERMINSTER DY10 3BH		
												Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact CONNELLS 20-21 Oxford Street, Kidderminster DY10 1AU 01562 68214		
												 FREE LEGAL FEES AVAILABLE		



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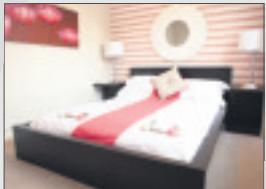
Fabulous opening offers for December completions on plots 2 and 4.

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Showhome open Thursday to Monday 11am to 5pm

Eight beautifully designed four bedroom detached homes set within a private, gated development.



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SEDGELEY

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

•Detached Residence•Three Bedrooms•Lounge (Dining Room)•Fitted Fitted Kitchen•Breakfast Room•Utility Room•Ground Floor Cloakroom•Bathrooms•Driveway To The Rear•Gated Via Courtney Road•Gas Central Heating System•Double Glazing Where Stated•Extensive Rear Garden•Viewing Recommended

£194,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000

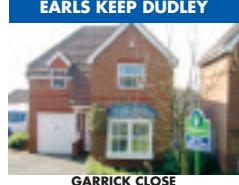


TIVIDALE

OAKHAM ROAD

•Extended Semi Detached•Three Bedrooms•Extended Fitted Kitchen•Dining Room•Gas Central Heating System•Double Glazing Where Stated•Garage•Rear Garden•Driveway

£144,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000



EARLS KEEP DUDLEY

GARRICK CLOSE

•Detached Residence•Three Bedrooms•Lounge•Fitted Dining Kitchen•En Suite To Bedroom One•Ground Floor Cloakroom•Bathrooms•GCH System•Double Glazing Where Stated•Rear Garden•Garage

Offer Over £180,000 DUDLEY 01384 455000



BILSTON

CADGWITH GARDENS

•Detached Residence•Four Bedrooms•Lounge•Games/Reception Room•Dining Area•Kitchen•Utility Room & Cloakroom•Bedroom One Having En-Suite•Double Glazing Where Stated•Gas Central Heating System•Driveway•No Chain

£155,000 DUDLEY 01384 455000



TIVIDALE

ALEXANDRA WAY

A one bedroom well presented ground floor apartment having communal entrance leading to property comprising hallway, bathroom, one bedroom and open plan lounge/kitchen. Other features comprise double glazing and parking

£395 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000



DUDLEY

CASTLE MILL LANE

•A Three Bedroom Semi Detached•Lounge •Kitchen/Diner •Ground Floor Wet Room •Upstairs Cloakroom •Gas Central Heating System •Rear Garden •No Upward Chain

£525 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000



LOWER GORNAL

QUEENS HALL

•One Bedroom Apartment•Open Plan Lounge•Fitted Kitchen•Bathroom•Allocated Parking•Viewing Recommended•Close To Town Centre•Beautiful Communal Gardens

£500 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000



DUDLEY

OAKTHORPE GARDENS

First Floor Two Bedroom Maisonette in a Cul-De-Sac location. Close to the Tescos/Burnt Tree Island roundabout and the A4123 Birmingham New Road offering excellent access to Dudley, Wolverhampton and the motorway system. Having Lounge, Kitchen and Bathroom, with Double Glazing and Electric Storage Heating and Allocated Parking

£425 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000



DUDLEY

DIBDALE ROAD

•Bay Blasted Semi Detached Residence•Three Bedrooms•Lounge•Fitted Kitchen•Diner•Bathroom•Gas Central Heating System•Double Glazing Where Stated•Extensive Rear Garden•Driveway•Viewing Recommended

£149,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000



COSELEY

EDGE STREET

•Semi Detached Residence•Three Bedrooms•Two Reception Rooms•Kitchen•Bathroom•Gas Central Heating System•Double Glazing Where Stated•No Chain

£79,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000



LOWER GORNAL

HILARY CRESCENT

A traditional semi detached property in a popular location. Accommodation briefly comprises of hallway, lounge and separate dining room, fitted kitchen, downstairs WC and utility room on the ground floor with three bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs

£595 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000



DUDLEY

CITY ROAD

•An Improved & Extended Detached Residence•Three Bedrooms•Lounge•Extended Fitted Kitchen•Utility Room•Gas Central Heating System•Double Glazing Where Stated•Rear Garden•No Chain

£159,995 DUDLEY 01384 455000



TIPTON

BONNEVILLE CLOSE

•Well Presented Ground Floor Apartment•Two Bedrooms•Fitted Kitchen•Lounge•Gas Central Heating System•Double Glazing Where Stated•Rear Garden•Allocated Parking

£79,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000



DUDLEY

FIELD ROAD

•Tow Bedroom Semi Detached•Lounge•Fitted Kitchen•Family Bathroom•Gas Central Heated System•Double Glazed Where Stated•Front and Rear Garden•Driveway

£450 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000



ROWLEY REGIS

ROYAL OAK ROAD

•Semi Detached Residence•Three Bedrooms•Lounge•Fitted Dining Kitchen•Garden & Garage To Rear

£550 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000

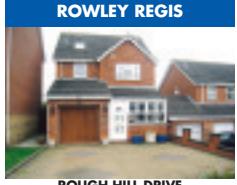


LOWER GORNAL

GROSVENOR COURT

•Ground Floor Maisonette•One Bedroom•Lounge•Kitchen•Storage Heaters•Double Glazing Where Stated

£395 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000



ROWLEY REGIS

ROUGH HILL DRIVE

•Improved Detached Residence•Three Bedrooms•Attic Bedroom•Lounge•Dining Room•Conservatory•Fitted Kitchen•Ground Floor Cloakroom•Garage•En Suite To Bedroom One•Block Paved Driveway

£175,000 DUDLEY 01384 455000



ROWLEY REGIS

BOURNE WALK

•Three Bedroom Mid Terrace•Through Lounge/Dining Room•Kitchen•Bathroom•Gas Central Heating System•Double Glazing Where Stated•Parking To The Rear Having Gated Access. Viewing Recommended

£115,000 DUDLEY 01384 455000



DUDLEY

AUTUMN DRIVE

•A Three Bedroom Semi Detached•Two Reception Rooms•Kitchen •Bathroom •Conservatory •Downstairs Cloakroom •Gas Central Heated System •Double Glazed Where Stated •Front And Rear Garden •Driveway •No Upward Chain

£104,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000



DUDLEY

HALLCHURCH ROAD

•An Extended Bay Fronted Semi Detached•Three Bedrooms•Two Reception Rooms•Extended Kitchen•Downstairs Cloakroom•Extended Wet Room•Bathroom Upstairs•Gas Central Heating System•Double Glazing Where Stated•Rear Garden•No Chain

£99,950 DUDLEY 01384 455000



TIVIDALE

OAK CRESCE

•Three Bedroom Bay Fronted Detached•Two Reception Rooms•Extended Fitted Kitchen•Bathroom Having White Suite•Gas Central Heated System•Double Glazed Where Stated•Rear Garden•Driveway•Garage•Viewing Recommended

£175,000 DUDLEY 01384 455000



TIPTON

BIRCH CRESCE

•Extended Semi Detached•Two Bedrooms•Lounge•Dining Room•Extended Kitchen•Gas Central Heating•Double Glazing•Driveway

£550 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000



LOWER GORNAL

GROSVENOR COURT

•Ground Floor Maisonette•One Bedroom•Lounge•Kitchen•Storage

£395 PCM DUDLEY 01384 455000



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GOSPEL END VILLAGE, SEDGLEY



FIR STREET

- ★ A large individually designed five bedroomed detached property in a desirable location near to Baggeridge country park
- ★ Traditional lounge and dining room
- ★ Kitchen with additional dayroom off
- ★ Utility
- ★ Games room , 20ft x 16'
- ★ House bathroom, shower room, downstairs cloakroom
- ★ Garage, block paved driveway with parking for 5/6 cars
- ★ Good sized private rear garden

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £469,000

SEDGLEY



HIGH PARK CRESCENT

- ★ Detached character residence in a most desirable location
- ★ Lounge ★ Conservatory
- ★ Large kitchen opening into 2nd reception
- ★ Four bedrooms and Loft room
- ★ Ensuite to bedroom three
- ★ Modern bathroom with walk in shower
- ★ Garage with driveway parking
- ★ Pleasant rear garden

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £269,950

MILKING BANK



SOVEREIGN DRIVE

- ★ Delightfully positioned 4 bed detached
- ★ Lounge ★ Separate dining room
- ★ Kitchen & Utility room
- ★ Guest cloakroom ★
- ★ Spacious master bedroom & ensuite
- ★ Modern bathroom
- ★ Block paved driveway
- ★ Feature landscaped rear garden

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £249,950

LARKSVIEW, DUDLEY



RICHBOROUGH DRIVE

- ★ Luxuriously appointed detached home on a private plot
- ★ Enhanced to provide contemporary style accommodation
- ★ Lounge and separate dining room
- ★ Breakfast kitchen with utility with integrated appliances
- ★ Four bedrooms, ensuite to master
- ★ Modern family bathroom, downstairs cloakroom
- ★ Garage and driveway parking for 3/4 cars

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £237,500

DUDLEY



ATTINGHAM DRIVE

- ★ A distinctive spacious detached
- ★ Four double bedrooms
- ★ Master bedroom with dressing area & ensuite
- ★ Luxury bathroom with walk-in shower
- ★ Lounge and open plan dining kitchen
- ★ Guest cloakroom ★ Utility
- ★ Family bathroom
- ★ Delightful private rear garden
- ★ Garage

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £224,500

GORNAL WOOD



KETTLESBANK ROAD

- ★ A detached home in a desirable quiet location
- ★ Very close to Gornal Village
- ★ Open plan lounge/dining room
- ★ Spacious kitchen with utility area
- ★ Family bathroom
- ★ Delightful private rear garden
- ★ Garage

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £197,500

SEDGLEY



QUEENS ROAD

- ★ An ideal traditional style family home
- ★ Close to Sedgley Centre & schools
- ★ Lounge & separate dining room
- ★ Extended breakfast kitchen
- ★ Utility , guest wc and cloakroom
- ★ Three bedrooms with fitted wardrobes
- ★ Garage ★ Good sized rear garden

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £187,500

WOODSETTON



WREN STREET

- ★ A traditional style three bed detached
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Kitchen and utility
- ★ Downstairs cloakroom
- ★ Upvc double glazing and gas central heating
- ★ Garage and off road parking for 3 cars
- ★ Pleasant rear gardens

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £184,950

GORNAL WOOD



ORCHARD GROVE

- ★ A traditional style three bed detached close to Gornal village
- ★ Spacious lounge with dining area
- ★ Good sized kitchen, side lobby
- ★ Beautifully presented bathroom, separate shower cubicle
- ★ Landscaped rear gardens
- ★ Garage to the rear with parking
- ★ Block paved driveway to the front
- ★ Viewing recommended

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £179,950

GORNAL WOOD



BIRD STREET

- ★ A period character property,corner plot
- ★ Extensive grounds suitable for building plot (subject to relevant consent)
- ★ Two large receptions rooms
- ★ Upgraded breakfast kitchen ★ Cellar
- ★ Utility and downstairs wet room
- ★ Three bedrooms and upstairs bathroom
- ★ Garage and driveway parking
- ★ DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £179,950

ETTINGSHALL PARK



CAMBERLEY CRESCENT

- ★ A beautifully presented 3 bedroom traditional semi
- ★ Enhanced by the current owners
- ★ Third bedroom extended into loft space
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Kitchen ★ Conservatory
- ★ Modern bathroom (with separate shower cubicle)
- ★ Garage and delightful rear gardens.

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £172,500

COSELEY



PICKRELL ROAD

- ★ A luxuriously appointed 4 bed semi.
- ★ Extended & enhanced throughout
- ★ 23' living room , separate dining room
- ★ Extended kitchen
- ★ Four double bedrooms
- ★ En-suite to master, modern bathroom
- ★ Garage & turning driveway

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £172,500

LOWER GORNAL



OAKLAND DRIVE

- ★ A well presented three bed semi-detached in a pleasant location with easy access to Gornal village and Himley country Park
- ★ Extended to the rear providing excellent sized living space
- ★ Lounge/dining room 22' x 16'
- ★ Gas central heating and partial double glazing
- ★ Garage with workshop and potential for utility room
- ★ Secluded rear garden

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £165,000

COSELEY



PAGET CLOSE

- ★ An extremely well presented semi-detached in a quiet cul-de-sac location
- ★ Generous sized accommodation
- ★ Lounge, kitchen and conservatory
- ★ Three bedrooms, fitted wardrobes in bedroom one
- ★ Upvc double glazing, gas central heating
- ★ Block paved driveway and garage

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £157,500

LOWER GORNAL



WINSCAR CROFT

- ★ Modern style semi , quiet cul-de-sac
- ★ High standard of accommodation
- ★ Extended living space
- ★ Kitchen with dining area.
- ★ Lounge and conservatory
- ★ Three bedrooms, ensuite to master
- ★ Garage part converted to storage space
- ★ Parking for several cars
- ★ Viewing highly recommended

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £156,950

COSELEY



MINITH ROAD

- ★ A most delightful semi-detached family home
- ★ Refurbished & enhanced to provide high standard accommodation
- ★ Large open plan style lounge/dining room
- ★ Kitchen extension with utility & guest cloakroom
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Private rear garden
- ★ Garage & off road parking

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £144,950

COSELEY



BRIDGEWATER DRIVE

- ★ A well presented two bedroom detached
- ★ Walking distance to Coseley station
- ★ Lounge ★ Kitchen/Diner
- ★ Upvc double glazing
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Good sized rear garden
- ★ Block paved driveway for 3 cars

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £135,500

COSELEY



YEW TREE LANE

- ★ A traditional bay fronted semi-detached
- ★ Walking distance to Coseley station
- ★ Lounge and dining room
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Upvc double glazing
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Double width garage.
- ★ NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £134,950

TIPTON



FOXYARDS ROAD

- ★ A delightful three bed semi detached
- ★ Enhanced through out with a modern theme
- ★ Two reception rooms and a conservatory
- ★ Kitchen and utility
- ★ Upvc double glazing & Gas central heating
- ★ Garage & block paved driveway
- ★ Pleasant private rear garden
- ★ Viewing highly recommended

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £130,000

COSELEY



BERRINGTON DRIVE

- ★ A three bedroom semi-detached property
- ★ In a quiet residential location
- ★ Open plan style living room
- ★ Dining kitchen ★ conservatory
- ★ Three bedrooms & bathroom
- ★ Upvc double glazed windows
- ★ Garage & off road parking

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £129,950

SEDGLEY



LOMOND ROAD, NORTHWAY

- ★ A deceptively spacious mid town house
- ★ Beautifully presented throughout
- ★ Lounge ★ Open plan modern kitchen & dining area
- ★ Downstairs cloakroom
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Two allocated parking spaces
- ★ NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £129,950

COSELEY



CENTRAL DRIVE

- ★ A generous sized 3 bed traditional semi-detached
- ★ Conveniently located for major road and rail links
- ★ Lounge and dining kitchen
- ★ Upvc double glazed. ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Modern fully tiled bathroom
- ★ Good sized rear garden with outbuilding.
- ★ Driveway parking for two cars.

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £115,000

LOWER GORNAL



BROOKDALE

- ★ Substantial sized three bed semi.
- ★ Situated on a large corner plot beyond delightful front gardens
- ★ Extended kitchen & bathroom
- ★ Dining area ★ lounge
- ★ Upvc double glazing
- ★ Gas central heating ★ Part double glazed
- ★ Garage
- ★ NO UPWARD CHAIN .

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £109,950

OLD PARK FARM, DUDLEY



BEECH GREEN

- ★ A traditional semi-detached on an end plot in a popular residential area
- ★ Two reception rooms and a breakfast kitchen
- ★ Three generous sized bedrooms
- ★ Upstairs bathroom with white suite
- ★ Upvc double glazing
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Pleasant rear gardens
- ★ Ideal for first time buyer

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £102,000

COSELEY



HIGH VIEW

- ★ An ideal first time purchase
- ★ A modern style semi-detached
- ★ Lounge and dining kitchen
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ Modern bathroom
- ★ Upvc dg ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Driveway parking
- ★ No upward chain

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £97,500

COSELEY



ANVIL CRESCENT

- ★ Modern style townhouse
- ★ Lounge ★ Breakfast kitchen
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ Modern bathroom
- ★ Upvc double glazing
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £96,500

HURST HILL



HORACE STREET

- ★ Ideal first time purchase/buy-to-let
- ★ An end of terrace on a large plot
- ★ Potential for extension /extensive parking
- ★ Lounge ★ Breakfast kitchen
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ Upvc double glazing
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £95,000

SEDGLEY



CLAREMONT COTTAGES

- ★ A purpose built one bedroom bungalow
- ★ Short walk from Sedgley town centre
- ★ Double glazing
- ★ Private rear garden
- ★ Driveway parking
- ★ Some updating required
- ★ NO UPWARD CHAIN

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £94,000

DUDLEY



MEADOW ROAD

- ★ Traditional style family home
- ★ Excellent sized lounge
- ★ 15' breakfast kitchen. ★ Store room
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Modern bathroom, "P" shaped bath
- ★ Sunny rear garden with feature decking
- ★ Off road parking

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £90,000

SEDGLEY



BILSTON STREET

- ★ One bed first floor flat
- ★ Close to Sedgley Centre
- ★ Double glazing
- ★ Electric Heating
- ★ Secure parking to the rear
- ★ Unfurnished
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<p>Gornal GLEN ROAD</p>  	
<p>A two bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, kitchen, downstairs wc, bathroom, front and rear gardens with off road parking to the front and benefiting from no upward chain</p>	
<p>£69,950</p>	
<p>BILSTON Julie Croft</p> 	
<p>A two bedroom mid terraced house with lounge, breakfast kitchen, garden to the rear and parking to the front.</p>	
<p>£89,950</p>	

<p>TIVIDALE Temple Way</p> 	
<p>A three bedroom detached house with a larger than average garden to the rear and hallway, lounge, dining area, fitted kitchen, garage and driveway</p>	
<p>£139,950</p>	
<p>Brierley Hill FOXDALE DRIVE</p>  	
<p>A well presented three bedroom end terraced house with hallway, lounge, dining kitchen, gardens to front and rear and large driveway to the side. Viewing is essential</p>	
<p>£99,950</p>	

<p>Gornal Wood HIMLEY ROAD</p>  	
<p>A rare opportunity to purchase this two bedroomed enchanting detached cottage that is full of original character and has a double detached garage. There is planning permission in place to extend the existing cottage and to build a further detached house.</p>	
<p>£150,000-250,000</p>	
<p>SEDGLEY Southerdown Road</p> 	
<p>A two bedroom semi detached bungalow with hallway, lounge, kitchen, garage, gardens to the front and rear and driveway. Viewing highly recommended.</p>	
<p>£167,450</p>	
<p>NETHERTON Baptist End Road</p> 	
<p>Four bedroom detached house with hallway, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, garage, rear garden, driveway to the front and side and potential for an extension/double garage subject to planning.</p>	
<p>£199,950</p>	

<p>TIPTON Leslie Drive</p>  	
<p>An extended three bedroom semi detached house with lounge, large dining kitchen, low maintenance rear garden, garage and driveway. Viewing is essential.</p>	
<p>£134,950</p>	
<p>TIVIDALE New Birmingham Road</p> 	
<p>An impressive three bedroom semi detached house with hallway, lounge, dining room, conservatory, large driveway to the front and mature gardens to the rear</p>	
<p>£129,950</p>	
<p>TIPTON Tibbington Terrace</p> 	
<p>A traditional detached house in excellent order throughout with garage, two reception rooms, dining kitchen, downstairs wc and a garden to the rear. INCENTIVES AVAILABLE</p>	
<p>£105,000</p>	
<p>BILSTON Bunkers Hill Lane</p> 	
<p>A well presented two bedroom semi detached house with lounge, dining room, kitchen, sun room, driveway and garden to the rear</p>	
<p>£99,950</p>	

<p>DUDLEY Brooke Street</p> <p>TO LET</p>  	
<p>A ground floor one bedroom flat with central heating and double glazing. Lounge, bedroom, fitted kitchen, bathroom, unfurnished. Available now, no DSS.</p>	
<p>£340 PCM</p>	
<p>TIVIDALE Alexandra Way</p> <p>TO LET</p> 	
<p>An one bedroom first floor apartment with double glazing and electric storage heating. Open plan diner/ kitchen/lounge. Double bedroom, house bathroom. Available now.</p>	
<p>£360 PCM</p>	
<p>DUDLEY Grange Road</p> <p>NEW INSTRUCTION</p> 	
<p>A beautifully present one bedroom ground floor apartment with secure entry, central heating and double glazing and off road parking. Good sized lounge/diner, modern fitted kitchen, bathroom/WC with shower over bath, unfurnished, available now - no DSS, no pets.</p>	
<p>£400 PCM</p>	
<p>DUDLEY Willow Road</p> <p>TO LET</p> 	
<p>A two bedroom end terrace house, lounge, fitted kitchen, two good size bedrooms. Downstairs toilet and bathroom on first floor. Genuine housing benefits considered with guarantor.</p>	
<p>£475 PCM</p>	

<p>TIPTON Brindleyfields Way</p> <p>TO LET</p>  	
<p>A two bedroom end terraced house with hallway, lounge, kitchen, garden to rear, driveway to front and a garage opposite, with a 'canal view' to rear. No DSS, available now.</p>	
<p>£525 PCM</p>	
<p>DUDLEY Bunn's Lane</p> <p>NEW INSTRUCTION</p> 	
<p>A three bed semi detached house, recently renovated and redecorated to a good standard. Large lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs wc, house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Off road parking to the front, a garage to rear is a bike/bin covered store, and garden. Unfurnished, No DSS.</p>	
<p>£550 PCM</p>	
<p>DUDLEY Greenhill Road</p> <p>NEW INSTRUCTION</p> 	
<p>Three bedroom semi detached house. Has large lounge and kitchen /diner. Small utility area, shower room, double garage. Possible 4th bedroom / office on the ground floor. Bathroom and shower on the 1st floor. Driveway. No Dss. Unfurnished. Available now to view.</p>	
<p>£625 PCM</p>	
<p>DUDLEY Claughton Road</p> <p>NEW INSTRUCTION</p> 	
<p>A four bedroom detached house, three reception rooms, large fitted kitchen with dining area. House bathroom/ wc and downstairs w/c. Available now, housing benefits considered with guarantor</p>	
<p>£695 PCM</p>	

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<p>Superbly presented Three Bed End Terrace, Completely renovated throughout. Feature Lounge, Modern Kitchen and Bathroom with shower, Cellar, Large rear garden with Decked area, GCH UPVC.. Viewing Highly Recommended on this property.</p>	
<p>£575 pcm</p>	

<p>Ashdown Drive, Wordsley</p> 	
<p>Modern 3 Bed Extended Semi. Large Lounge. Separate Diner. Modern Kitchen & Bathroom. Garden & Driveway. GCH. UPVC. Viewing essential.</p>	
<p>£595pcm</p>	

<p>Blackacre Road, Dudley.</p> 	
<p>Spacious 1 Bed First Floor Flat. Close to Amenities. Large Lounge. Double Bedroom. Kitchen Diner. GCH. UPVC. Available Now,</p>	
<p>£350 pcm</p>	

<p>Queen Street, Kingswinford</p> 	
<p>Spacious 3 Bed Semi. Large Lounge. Modern Kitchen & Shower. Garage & Driveway. GCH. UPVC.</p>	
<p>£595pcm</p>	

<p>Gospel End Street, Sedgley,</p> 	
<p>Large Three Bedroom Flat in Town Centre Location, Large Lounge, Double Bedrooms, New Carpets and decor throughout GCH. UPVC, Parking. Excellent Value</p>	
<p>£495 pcm</p>	

<p>Dadford View, Brierley Hill</p> 	
<p>Superbly Presented 2nd Floor Flat. Modern Kitchen and Bathroom. Double Bedrooms. Secure Access. Parking. Available Now.</p>	
<p>£395 pcm</p>	

<p>Ragees Road, Kingswinford</p> 	
<p>Modern 1 Bed Ground Floor Studio Flat. Fitted Kitchen. Separate Bedroom. Shower. Secure Access. Parking. Viewing Essential.</p>	
<p>£325 pcm</p>	

<p>Hawbush Gardens, Brierley Hill</p> 	
<p>Spacious Ground Floor Flat. Large Lounge. Breakfast Kitchen. Double Bedroom. Bath & Shower. UPVC. Private Parking. Available Now.</p>	
<p>£350 pcm</p>	

<p>Trafalgar Court Tividale,</p> 	
<p>Self contained Studio Apartment, Close to all Amenities, Kitchen, Laminate Flooring, Bath and Shower, Storage Heating, Garage.</p>	
<p>£295 pcm</p>	

<p>Watson Green Road, Dudley</p> 	
<p>3 Bed Semi Detached House, Fully Refurbished, Two Reception Rooms, Double Bedrooms, Large Rear Garden, GCH. UPVC. Viewing essential to appreciate.</p>	
<p>£475 pcm</p>	

<p>Marley Road, Kingswinford</p> <p>UNDER OFFER</p> 	
<p>Semi Detached 1 Bed Detached Bungalow, Large Lounge. New Kitchen. Power Shower. Double Bedroom. Garden & Driveway. GCH. UPVC. Available Now.</p>	
<p>£495pcm</p>	

<p>Stream Road, Wordsley</p> <p>UNDER OFFER</p> 	
<p>Superb 2 Bed Mid Terrace. 2 Reception Rooms. Modern Fitted Kitchen. Double Bedrooms. Modern Bathroom. Cellar, Garden, GCH. UPVC. Available Now.</p>	
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Residential Lettings

<p>Dudley Altingham Drive</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Three/four bed townhouse. ★Furnished. GCH & DG ★Fully fitted kitchen/diner with appliances <p>£695pcm</p>	<p>Brierley Hill Madison Avenue</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Three storey town house ★Three double bedrooms ★Two bathrooms. CH & DG <p>£650pcm</p>	<p>Wednesbury Lime Road</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Three bed semi detached house ★Spacious lounge/dining room ★Fitted kitchen with cooker <p>£550pcm</p>		
<p>Sedgley North One Mews</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Two bed first floor apartment ★Spacious rooms. DG ★Fully fitted kitchen. Allocated parking <p>£540pcm</p>	<p>Tipton Victoria Road</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Three bed semi detached house ★New GCH. DG. Upstairs & downstairs W.C's <p>£525pcm</p>	<p>Tipton Anita Avenue</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Superbly appointed two bed semi detached house ★GCH & DG. <p>£525pcm</p>		
<p>Bilston Millcroft</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Three storey town house ★Fitted kitchen. ★Lounge ★Three double <p>£525pcm</p>	<p>Wolverhampton Emsworth Crescent</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Attractive three bed semi detached house ★CH & DG. Large forecourt <p>£500pcm</p>	<p>Bloxwich Astbury Close</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Smart modern town house ★Two bedrooms. GCH & DG ★Fitted kitchen with oven and hob <p>£495pcm</p>	<p>Dudley Old Park Road</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Traditional three bed semi detached house. ★Gas central heated ★Kitchen/diner with patio doors to rear garden <p>£495pcm</p>	<p>Tipton Scan Street</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Two bed ground floor apartment ★Spacious lounge. ★Fully fitted kitchen ★Bathroom with shower <p>£475pcm</p>
<p>Tipton Sycamore Road</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Two bed semi detached house ★GCH. Alarmed ★Fitted breakfast <p>£475pcm</p>	<p>Wednesbury Blenheim Drive</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Two bed first floor apartment ★Reception room ★Fully fitted open plan kitchen/diner <p>£475pcm</p>	<p>Tipton Anchor Drive</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Well presented two bed semi detached house. ★Unfurnished. GCH & DG ★Spacious lounge <p>£475pcm</p>	<p>Dudley Kenilworth Court</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Modern two bed first floor apartment ★Lounge. Fully fitted kitchen <p>£475pcm</p>	
<p>Tipton Anchor Drive</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★First floor two bed apartment ★Lounge with patio style doors ★Fully fitted kitchen with appliances <p>£450pcm</p>	<p>Bilston Ashley Street</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Mid terrace two bed bathroom property ★Two reception rooms ★Ground floor <p>£425pcm</p>	<p>West Bromwich Birmingham Road</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★One bed apartment in popular residential location ★Spacious lounge <p>£400pcm</p>	<p>Bilston Beckett Street</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Mid terrace two bed bathroom house ★Two reception rooms ★Modern kitchen ★Ground floor <p>£400pcm</p>	
<p>Wolverhampton Essington Way</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★One bed ground floor apartment ★Own front door access ★Unfurnished. Fully fitted kitchen <p>£395pcm</p>	<p>Wall Heath Grove Farm</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★One bed apartment in Grade II Georgian listed building ★Fully furnished <p>£395pcm</p>	<p>Sedgley Bilston Street</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★Spacious one bed first floor maisonette ★Fully fitted kitchen with appliances <p>£375pcm</p>		

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Crossover success – Nissan is celebrating the sale of more than 100,000 Jukes in just one year in Europe

Nissan is breaking the mould with prototype

IF YOU really want the 3.0-litre twin-turbo Nissan GT-R but need something smaller and more practical like the company's Juke compact crossover, your problems could be over with the announcement of a special prototype dubbed the Juke-R.

It sees the 450bhp engine from the GT-R shoe-horned into the Juke chassis to create a car that school-run mums and man-racers alike can love to bits.

Even better, the car is fully road legal and not just a pipe dream.

Don't get your hopes up too soon, though, because the Juke-R won't see

production. It's just a bit of mischief that Nissan is getting up to alongside motorsports outfit RML.

The drivetrain and much of the interior equipment of the GT-R has been modified and adapted to fit the Juke's dimensions, but the Juke's distinctive centre console inspired by a motorcycle fuel tank stays put.

Exciting

Firmly engaged in corporate mode, Nissan's senior vice president of sales and marketing in Europe, Paul Wilcox said: "The Nissan Juke is one of the most exciting cars on the market today.

"Its bold crossover design has captured the imagination of car buyers all over Europe; after just a year on sale we are celebrating sales of more than 100,000 units.

"The Juke lends itself perfectly to a sports derivative and Juke-R explores that territory.

"Equally at home, on road and track, the Juke-R showcases two of the most exciting cars in our range and highlights the technical innovation that drives Nissan.

"This car will more than live up to the dynamic driving experience we engineer into all our cars."

CONVICTIONS laid down in court for driving on defective tyres are at a four-year high, according to the latest statistics from the Home Office.

In 2010, 10,475 motorists were convicted of the offence, almost 1,000 more than in 2009.

The figures seem to indicate that as budgets tighten at home, drivers are putting off buying replacement tyres until they have passed beyond the legal minimum.

The law states that car tyres must have at least 1.6mm of tread across three-quarters of the width of the tyre and all the way around the circumference.

Most new tyres come with around 8mm of tread when new, so the difference in the respective performance of old and new tyres, especially in the wet, is significant.

Potential

Even though the penalty for driving on tyres below the legal limit is up to £2,500 per tyre, as well as a mandatory three points per tyre endorsement on your driving licence, the potential alternative of serious accident could be far, far worse.

Stuart Jackson, chairman of TyreSafe, a non-profit organisation dedicated to highlighting the dangers of over-worn or damaged tyres,

says: "These latest figures are very worrying indeed and show that the courts take a very dim view of people driving on defective tyres.

"We are aware that with



Drivers are putting off buying new tyres while money is tight

recent financial pressures, many motorists are delaying the purchase of new tyres. However, as these latest figures show, some are waiting far too long and are risking their own safety and that of other roads users by going beyond the legal minimum standards."

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Victory takes Old Hales to top of the league



Mark Curzon in action

Finchfield 1 OHHC 1st XI 4

Old Halesomians 1st XI Hockey Team stroked to a 4-1 victory over Finchfield, with four different scorers. The win puts Hales joint league leaders in the MRHA ENER-G West Midlands Premier Division.

Hales travelled to Finchfield knowing that only a win was acceptable and some exceptional play from the squad meant the visiting team dominated for the majority of the game. Both teams started the game patiently, but it was Hales who opened the scoring. Following a progressive build up, the ball was driven down the right by Ben Hughes, who fired the ball across the D to striker Tom Bulteel who flicked the ball into the net for a 1-0 lead.

Old Hales never looked back and soon doubled their lead when another well-worked move down the right flank led to a goal.

The ball was passed inside to Paul Harrold who found Harry Hughes in the D. Hughes easily put the ball into the goal to double the visitors lead. At 2-0, Hales did not stop off the gas and continued their assault on the Finchfield defence. Marc Herickx had his shot saved by the Finchfield GK, but Josh Randhawa was on hand to put the ball into the net, to make it 3-0 at the half time break.

In the second half, Hales continued where they left off with pressure on the home side's goal. Some good defending prevented Hales from extending their lead early on.

However, it was only a matter of time before the visitors grabbed their fourth goal of the game. The goal was surrounded by some controversy following a Hales penalty corner.

The ball appeared to deflect off the body of Paul Woodall and into the back of the goal, but the umpire saw no infringement and allowed it. With a 4-0 lead, Old Halesomians kept their composure and were allowed long periods of possession.

Finchfield gained a consolation goal when a momentary lack of concentration from captain Doug Houghton saw him yellow carded for not retreating five metres.

The resulting penalty corner was saved by GK James Jones, but the Finchfield striker reacted first to the loose ball and flicked it past a helpless defence. Despite the best efforts of man of the match Mark Curzon, the ball found its way over the goal line.

Hales will hope to continue their good form as they host Sikh Union (Coventry) on Saturday at Great Park, Rubery.

OHHC 2nd XI 1 Worcester 3

It was a tale of penalty corners as Old Hales 2nd XI lost 3-1 to top of the table Worcester.

Hales started brightly and dominated the first 10 minutes with slick passing and movement, but they could not take advantage of the numerous penalty corners they won early on.

Worcester grew into the game and won a penalty corner which was converted despite keeper Steve Charlton getting a stick to the ball. This knocked some confidence out of the Hales side and they struggled for the rest of the half to keep possession, as Worcester scored from a further penalty corner before the break.

Hales were second best for most of the second half, Nick Truelove went close with a one-on-one, but Worcester grabbed another goal from a penalty corner. Hales rallied back and got a consolation goal as Mark Rigby struck home from a penalty corner on the final whistle.

Stratford 3 OHHC 3rd XI 1

Old Halesomians 3rd XI were unlucky in defeat against an experienced Stratford side. Hales started well when James Bailey found the net after clipping the ball under the Stratford keeper. Unfortunately, that was as good as it got for the relatively inexperienced Hales side who struggled through the rest of the

game. Stratford were able to draw level and extend their lead into the 2nd half. Hales were disappointed with their 3-1 loss, and will look forward to the next game against Khalsa.

OHHC 4th XI 6 Old Wulfrunians 0

Old Halesomians 4th XI easily defeated a visiting Old Wulfrunians side. Hales striker, Meller, opened the scoring, and a second soon followed from Harrold. Mellor doubled his tally before half time. Guinan made it 4-0 for the home side, before Jones grabbed a fifth. Harrold then grabbed his brace before the final whistle.

Sutton 5 OHHC 5th XI 2

Old Halesomians 5th XI were unfortunate in their 5-2 defeat. Sutton were just too strong for the Hales side. The two goals for the visitors came from youngster Josh Thomas.

OHHC Ladies 2 Harborne 1

Old Halesomians Ladies held out for a 2-1 win over visitors Harborne. In a close game, Hales were able to ensure the three points to keep the team comfortably mid-table.

OHHC Badgers 4 Wednesbury 1

Old Halesomians Badgers comfortably won 4-1 over local rivals Wednesbury in a highly contested fixture.

Sweet success for Hawks both home and away

GIRLS LEAGUE

Halas Hawks 4 Ferndale Colts 0

A very assured performance by the U16 girls saw them take all three points against Ferndale. The visitors started strongly and had a number of corners but the Halas defence held firm. The scoring began with Lauren Taylor netting direct from a corner followed by a brace from Kate Drew and a terrific 30-yard strike from Liz McAlenan. The second half was seen out with goalkeeper Olivia Wooliams rarely in trouble. Player of the match was Charlotte Little.

BOYS LEAGUE

Halas Hawks West 2 Sedgley White Lions 0

This was a pulsating U9s cup game which saw a stalemate in the first half, but the second half exploded into life when Jayke Adams netted from a narrow angle. The Sedgley goalkeeper pulled off some tremendous saves but Anthony Andreou put Halas through to the next round with a smash into the roof of the net. The entire team was awarded the man of the match award.

Sedgley White Lions 0 Halas Hawks East 3

The U10s East travelled to Sedgley White Lions and progressed in the cup with a good 3-0 victory. Halas started brightly and took the lead with a tremendous long range Oliver Miller strike into the top right hand corner. Halas continued to press and scored again with a nice left foot finish from Charlie Greening who also forced a third goal after a corner was put in their own net by Sedgley. Man of the match awards went to Oliver Miller and Charlie Greening.

Kingsley Olympic 0 Halas Hawks 6

The U12s had a comfortable win over Kingsley Olympic with goals from Mohamed Yafai (2), Adam Bowen (2), Jonty Round and Matthew Evans. Man of the match went to Mohammed Mohamed.

Halas Hawks 3 Trysull Tigers West 2

The U13s progressed in the league cup with a hard-fought victory over a determined Trysull side. Halas started well and their pressure soon told with an early goal through Nathan Postin. Trysull drew level but Halas regained the lead through Callum Hudson. The second half saw Halas on top for long spells and they extended their lead with a goal from Josh Bernard. Trysull pulled one back and were on top towards the end but Halas held on for a 3-2 win.

Thimblemill Vipers 3 Halas Hawks 4

The U14s took the lead three times against Thimblemill Vipers only to see their opponents draw level on each occasion. Liam Holmes got two and Michael Eaton scored from the penalty spot and it was Eaton again who scored the vital match-winning fourth goal which earned him the man of the match award.

Wombourne 1 Halas Hawks 3

The U15s East recorded back to back wins after coming from behind to beat Wombourne 3-1. After a lacklustre first half, Hawks burst into gear early in the second half through a neat Josh March finish. Dan Willetts then added two more goals to his impressive tally for the season as Hawks finished the match as deserved 3-1 winners.

Halas Hawks 9 Oldswinford 0

A lively start to this U17's game saw the Halas lads take an early lead and then slowly worked up through the gears to go into half time break at 4-0 up. Again starting strongly in the second half, the boys played flowing football right up to the final whistle scoring a further five goals giving the team a well-deserved 9-0 win. Goal scorers were Mitch Webb (2), Alex Chappell (2), Kieran Hillsdon (2), Matt Ross, Scott Poole and Tom Stevens.

Hawks Hawks LADIES

Santiago Belles 0 Halas Ladies 4

Halas Hawks Ladies travelled to Santiago Belles in the Open Cup and made hard work of their 4-0 win. Despite having most of the possession, they scored only one goal in the first half through Gemma Colledge.

The second half saw continuous pressure from Halas and two further goals from Colledge and one from Tash Berry put Halas through.

DK reach cup semi as game is forfeited

DUDLEY KINGSWINFORD progressed to the semi finals of the North Midlands Cup without even taking the field on Saturday (5).

Opponents Hereford did not have enough players to make a full side and therefore forfeited the tie.

DK are back in action on Saturday (12) at 2.15pm when they host Malvern in a league fixture at Heathbrook.

Harriers banish their cup blues with a win

KIDDERMINSTER 2 TAMWORTH 0

FIRST-HALF goals from Lee Vaughan and Steve Guinan gave Harriers a timely boost after their bitterly disappointing exit from the FA Cup.

Vaughan converted an early penalty before Guinan hit the target to get Harriers' stuttering campaign back on track.

Their well-earned victory lifted them into eighth place in the Blue Square Bet Premier table, four points adrift of the play-off zone.

The win came after boss Steve Burr rang the changes following his side's dismal 4-1 FA Cup fourth qualifying round replay defeat at lower-graded Corby Town last week.

Burr's assistant Gary Whild said: "After the week we've had all the lads wanted to put things right. They did that and a difficult week has ended on a good note for us."

Kidderminster moved above Tamworth in the table by ending the visitors' run of five league matches without defeat.

But it may have been a different story if former Kidderminster campaigner Francino Francis had been slightly more accurate with a header which hit the top of the bar after just three minutes.

Francis was in the spotlight again three minutes later when he needlessly brought down Marc Williams in front of goal to enable Vaughan to put Harriers ahead with a well-taken penalty.

Needlessly

Dave Bird was then denied the chance of extending the hosts' lead when he saw his header brilliantly saved by keeper Jonathan Hedge.

Harriers, however, made it 2-0 in the 18th



Steve Guinan celebrates after putting Kidderminster 2-0 up

Pictures: Patrick Mulvaney

DK at Twickenham to launch awards



Launching the RFU President's XI Awards from left England World Cup 2003 winner Joe Worsley, Ken Crane from DK RFU, President Willie Wildash from DK, David Coyle and leading women's rugby star Maggie Alphonsi

Staff from Dudley Kingswinford were special guests at Twickenham when they helped launch the RFU President's XV Awards.

The awards are handed out to clubs which have promoted the development of grassroots rugby and DK won the communications and technology award for 2011.

As well as attending the launch, DK club members Ken Crane and David Coyle met England rugby stars Joe Worsley and Maggie Alphonsi and RFU president Willie Wildash. Other 2011 winners were also invited to Twickenham and Mr Crane said it was a fantastic experience.

"We have had the opportunity to meet other President's XV winners and discuss how to overcome different challenges within a grassroots rugby club," he added.

DK's award, which they received in March, came in recognition of creating DK TV which shows match highlights on the club's website.

Willie Wildash, RFU President said: "It's a real honour to launch this year's awards which reward the hard work and innovation which helps grows and sustain our game."

Hasbury showing their six appeal

Stourbridge Girls League U14 BUSTLEHOLME 1 HASBURY 6

With Hasbury away to Bustleholme the first real attack at goal saw Bustleholme score, with a good move down the left, their striker shot past Shannon Worsey for 1-0.

Hasbury, still misfiring, started to get back into the game and midway into the half Ellis Hall struck the ball sweetly for a 1-1 scoreline at half time.

With some inspired words from the coach, Hasbury began to look a different team with their passing and movement it had Bustleholme on the back foot. A great passing move saw Ellis Hall score her second goal to put Hasbury 2-1 in front.

Hasbury, now in full flow, pinned Bustleholme back with some great wing play from Levi Cheadle and Sian Berry and

Siohan Peplow's powerful runs through the middle, and from one corner Ellis Hall swung the ball right into a crowded box which somehow went in for 3-1 and Ellis Hall's hat-trick.

Another powerful run by Siohan Peplow saw her run 30 yards with the ball and deliver a powerful cross which found Sian Berry who turned and somehow with a defender with her, put the ball into her own net. The goal was later credited to Sian Berry after reviewing the move.

Sian Berry scored her second goal and Hasbury's fifth. The best move of the game saw Becky Hurley's pass find Levi to cross into the box for Meg to collect turn and smash the ball against the side of the post for it to fall to Sian to crack home her third and Hasbury's sixth.

Missed penalty leads to a draw

Kingswinford Eagles 1

Sedgley White Lions 1

Sedgley missed a late penalty and were held to a 1-1 draw in this Stourbridge League U-13s encounter.

Mary Billington gave Sedgley the lead on 20 minutes, finishing a great team move.

The hosts rallied in the second half and grabbed the equaliser with just five minutes to go.

Sedgley are currently on the lookout for new players from Years 7 and 8.

Call Julie on 01384 620598 for details.



Sedgley White Lions U12s football team

It's a big 10-4 for the Kings

Kingswinford 10

Kingswinford's Captain Adam Pritchard and Coach Billy Jawanda tried a new formation.

The forward pairing of Chris Brown and Colin Morris both scored a goal a piece within five minutes to give K-ford a great start.

Newtown scored two excellent goals despite Keeper Tim Sanders best efforts to keep them out.

The second half saw K-ford attack in numbers.

Colin Morris squared an excellent ball to Surjit Takhar, who made no mistake from four yards out.

Takhar added to his tally three minutes later. Cole Hickman put K-ford back in control after a superb reverse stick goal.

Morris scored his brace after a clean through-ball from Kam Maan. K-ford scored further goals from Takhar, Chris Brown, Billy Jawanda, Sam George and Ed Parkes. With the game beyond Newtown, K-ford relaxed too much and Newtown added two more goals to make the result respectable.

Kidderminster 1 Kingswinford 3

Right from the off Kingswinford mounted tremendous pressure on the home team, consistently keeping the ball in the opposition's half.

A Kiddy forward beat defender Parj Sangha and with a good finish scooped the ball past the stranded keeper Glenn Dunn.

K-ford soon drew level with a fine attacking move between the constantly threatening, Daman with Sunny and Guneet, the latter finishing with the score.

Moments later a great pass from Daman was picked up by Billy Sandhu and swept it into the net.

In the second half it seemed likely K-ford's inability to kill off the game would be their undoing as the midfield and defence began to make uncharacteristic mistakes.

Ravi was reintroduced with about 10 minutes to go as "golden oldie" Richard latched on to a nice through ball and played it to Ravi's right. He beat one player before advancing into the D and delivering a telling cross. A harassed defender couldn't control the ball and deflected it goal bound. As the ball headed goalward, Richard was on hand to make sure it crossed the line.

On reflection the whole team played very well as a unit, something they must strive to do more regularly.

Man of the Match was a close call between Daman and Billy but has been awarded to Billy for a very strong and positive impact.

sport

Amazing fightback denied at the death

Rosslyn Park 33 Stourbridge 24

Stourbridge Saxons fell agonisingly short against Rosslyn Park after a brilliant second-half fightback was snuffed out in the dying moments of the match.

The Saxons almost overturned a half-time deficit of 25-3, closing to within four points with just moments left only to concede a sucker punch.

The fightback began early in the second half from a line out that the pack drove into the Park 22 and back row Matt Thomas went over.

Then the coaching staff sent on all five Stourbridge replacements on 66 minutes which reaped immediate dividends as new fly-half Mark Woodrow put up a great kick and Ben Barkley timed his run perfectly to put in one of the hits of the season on Nev Edwards. The Park full back was driven backwards and limped off the pitch shortly afterwards. It also forced a turnover from which James Rodley scored, Hearn again added the extras.

With five minutes left on the clock Ben

Hughes popped up wide on the right and went over for a try. The momentum seemed to be with the visitors but it was Park who had the final say sealing the win by driving upfield from the kick off before spreading wide for Chris Lewis to finish.

Rosslyn Park: Edwards (68), Parsons, Shabbo, Robinson, Rudd, Laidlaw, Baxter (Bar 71), Owens, Richmond, Ward, Lloyd-Jones, Anderson, Trayfoot (Rowland 59), Campbell (Barrett 70), Locat (Rep not used); Huggett.

Stourbridge: Williams, Hearn, Dipple, Reakes (Boddy 66), Bressington, Robinson (Woodrow 66), White, Hill, Page (Rodley 66), Lawrence (Sturdy 66), Hughes, Hurrell, Rivora, Rodley, Thomas (Sparks 66).



Ben Hughes

ROBINS SHOW THEY CAN PLAY BIG TIME

DUDLEY TOWN 2 AFC WULFRUNIANS 0

West Midlands (Regional) League

Premier Division

Dudley Town's turbulent 18 months appear to be at an end as Andy Burgess' side proved they can once again compete with the big boys of the West Midlands Premier League with a defining 2-0 victory over AFC Wulfrunians.

The win, which also saw the Robins record a clean sheet for the first time since April's 1-0 victory at Lye Town, let Dudley extend their unbeaten run to seven games.

It didn't look too good for the home side at the start of the day with influential midfielder Ben Stretton being ruled out of the game owing to suspension, while Croatian striker Drenz Balu was still suffering with the same hamstring injury that had forced him off during Town's 2-1 victory at Bustleholme a week prior.

But the Robins' side these days can once again boast strength in depth with capable replacements for the two missing figures, meaning both Alex Perry, who was making his 100th appearance for Dudley, and Ben Store came into the starting 11.

Dudley started the game in positive fashion and it wasn't long before Store found the in-form Rion Francis-Mills who failed to make the most of his chance when his shot cleared the crossbar. But Wulfrunians looked dangerous and the 2008/9 champions were unlucky not to be ahead when Dan Crugdington rose to beat the impressive home debutant Jay Trevelan – but his looping header failed to meet the target.

As the first half progressed it was the hosts who looked the most likely to take the lead. Indeed, they should have done when some clever footwork by Francis-Mills left himself clear on goal but could only find the grateful Marc Evans with his low shot.

Comical

Dudley hustled and hustled the visitor's defence and eventually got their due rewards in comical fashion. The solid Graham Ashton managing to head the ball past Evans right on the half-hour mark.

In all honesty the home side should have been two ahead by the break with Store and Francis-Mills both coming close in a fixture that was swinging more the hosts way with every second.

Although Wulfs returned to the field with a renewed sense of purpose and Trevelan had to be on top form to tip wide a shot from the menacing Crugdington. While at the same time Evans had to be on the ball after a beautiful pass from Francis-Mills set up Store. The former Lye Town man seeing his fierce shot well blocked by Evans.

Dudley's defence held firm as the back four reaped the rewards of a well-deserved clean sheet, although Alex Perry was The Robins' saviour with just 11 minutes left when he blocked a thunderous strike from Ashton on the line.

With the light fading and the floodlights at The Dell piercing the darkness for the first time this season on a Saturday, Ben Store sealed the game for Dudley. Connecting to a fine cross from Danny Ludlow he made no mistake in calmly turning the ball past Marc Evans with just five minutes remaining.

Not even the introduction of former Dudley fan's favourite Gary Piggott's son Tom could turn the tide for the Wulfs as Dudley looked the most likely to score again when Harry Williams forced a fine one-on-one stop from Evans in the closing moments of the contest.

This was a very different Wulfrunians side from the past several seasons but they are a club that will be expecting to be in the mix for honours at the end of the season.

For Dudley they are certainly in a position to start looking ahead to their future although a tough litmus test rears its head when Bewdley Town visit The Dell.

No goals are a no go for Tividale's ambitions



Tividale striker Chris Russell closes down a clearance from the keeper. Pictures: Ian Peters

TIVIDALE 0 HEATHER ST JOHNS 0

Tividale missed out on the opportunity to make up ground on the leading Midland Alliance teams when they were held to a goalless draw in an intriguing match.

The hosts began brightly and dominated the opening exchanges without being able to create any significant openings.

In fact, it was central defender Mark Turton who had their best effort when his enterprising run saw him shoot just over the bar from 25 yards in the ninth minute.

Two minutes later the visitors managed their first attempt on goal when Troy Wallen's 20-yard effort produced an identical result. In the 13th minute, Tividale skipper Andy Parsons forced a good save from Saints goal-keeper Jamie Brassington.

Although Tividale continued to press forward and enjoy the lion's share of the possession, they were restricted to long-range efforts from Sam Williams and Parsons and a close-range header from an acute angle by Kyle Hill.

Lively

The visitors opened the second half with a lot more intent and it took a good last-gasp tackle from Parsons to prevent the lively Wallen closing in on the Tividale goal.

For a period of time it was the visitors who were enjoying the majority of attempts on goal without really threatening. Parsons went close to breaking the deadlock but his powerful header from 12 yards went just over.

A sustained spell of constant pressure from Tividale saw substitute Matt Jukes hit the post from close range in the 68th minute.

As the pressure mounted in a final flurry, another Tividale substitute, Matt Salmon, put the ball the wrong side of the post when he met a low cross in the 78th minute.

Tividale manager Dean Whitehouse admitted he was disappointed not to have taken all three points but said: "We needed something special to unlock their defence.

"We worked hard enough but St Johns deserved their draw."



Brett Clark attempts to bring the ball under control

Glassboys face replay after late hit from Kendal

FA Carlsberg Trophy 2nd Qualifying Round

STOURBRIDGE 3 KENDAL TOWN 3

Gary Hackett's men must make the long journey Tuesday night after the Cumbrian visitors grabbed a late equaliser to earn a replay from an exciting, incident-packed and sometimes fiery cup tie.

Stourbridge had the better of the early play and almost scored straight from the kick-off with Sean Geddes laying the ball off to Ben Billingham who picked out Aaron Drake whose angled shot drifted past the post. Kendal responded with Kieran Walmsey striking a free-kick that Lewis Solly got behind.

The hosts pressed again on 10 minutes with Drew Canavan releasing Ryan Rowe into the left-hand side of the box. His shot drew a parried save from Tom Newton and when the resulting right-wing flag-kick from Drake was not cleared, Canavan feed up Drake who crashed a shot against the bar.

The Glassboys carved out another opportunity in the 15th minute as Paul McCone clipped the ball through to Rowe who blazed it wide of the near post.

It was against the run of play when Leadbetter fired the Evo-stik Northern Premier side in-front after 17 minutes.

Ciaran Donnelly seized on a loose ball in midfield and slipped a measured pass into the path of Leadbetter who slotted home past Solly.

The visitors lead lasted just seven minutes as Stourbridge got back on level terms when Drake rolled a free-kick to Canavan and he rifled a 25-yard screamer beyond Newton. Home hopes were dealt a blow three minutes later following a tangle on the ground between Drake and Kendal defender Marc Joseph. Drake saw red for kicking out at Joseph who received a yellow card for his role in the incident.

Raspiny

The fired up hosts rallied to take the lead on 29 minutes with Ben Billingham finding the top corner of the net with a rasping 25-yard free-kick.

The drama continued as Lee Ashcroft's side restored parity in the 36th minute after a mistake from Solly. Danny Williams looked to stand up a cross from the left and Solly at his near post only succeeded in palming the ball down to leave Alex Taylor with the simplest of finishes into an empty net.

In the final minute of the half Stourbridge forged in-front once more as Canavan was put clear through by Rowe and he slipped his shot past the post, but was also upended inside the box by Newton.

The referee pointed to the spot and after showing a yellow to Newton, Sean Geddes stepped forward and his penalty found the net.

Stourbridge might have added another five minutes after the restart as Rowe found Canavan on the right-hand side of the box and he curled a shot against the far post.

As the half wore on though, Kendal began to push the home side back and threatened to make their extra-man pay. Stourbridge did have opportunities to break and sub Josh Craddock should have done better with 15 minutes left after Rowe and Billingham combined before Billingham supplied a low centre, but Craddock lofted his shot over.

Three minutes later Kendal also found themselves down to 10 men as Rowe looked to release Billingham who was pursued by both Leadbetter and Donnelly and when Billingham was brought down by Leadbetter just outside the box, the visiting mid-fielder was given his marching orders.

A strong run from Danny Wisdom took him past two Stourbridge players before he delivered in a deep cross that Kilfin couldn't force home under pressure, but the ball broke for sub Mark Jackson to shoot from close range. The hosts could still have found a winner in the dying moments with Canavan seeing a shot pushed away by Newton, while Craddock squandered another chance in stoppage.

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